

THE TIMES

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Ministers 'were misled on pesticides'

Civil servants accused over Gulf illness

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Government announced last night a wide-ranging £1.3 million inquiry into Gulf War syndrome after ministers said that the Commons had been misled over the use of chemicals on troops during the conflict.

Civil servants at the Ministry of Defence who gave false information to ministers about the use of potentially dangerous pesticides during the Gulf War could face dismissal. As the research study into the syndrome was announced, Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, said that a separate investigation had begun into the action of civil servants who had caused ministers to mislead the Commons for more than two years.

The health implications arising from widespread use of organophosphate pesticides against disease-carrying insects in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait will be considered in the new study by the Medical Research Council into the Gulf War illnesses that have affected more than 3,000 British servicemen and women.

Mr Soames, backed by Admiral Anthony Keay, the Surgeon-General, and Professor Alan McGregor, chairman of the Medical Research Council's advisory committee on Gulf War illness, confirmed yesterday that there was no common denominator linking the various illnesses to justify calling them a syndrome. However, the two years it took for ministers to be told the truth about the scale of the pesticide spraying has given

mentary questions in the Commons and in the House of Lords until September 25 this year when ministers were given the true picture.

David Clark, Labour defence spokesman, said: "The way in which Parliament was misled demonstrates the ministry's lack of commitment to getting to the bottom of the problem."

In the Lords, Earl Howe, a junior Defence Minister who has admitted inadvertently misleading Parliament on the use of organophosphate pesticides in the Gulf, denied any negligence.

A Defence Ministry team set up in October to investigate the use of pesticides discovered that huge stocks were bought in the Gulf, usually with Arabic instructions and no information in English on the ingredients.

The new epidemiological research, which will take three years, will involve two studies, each comparing the health records of 3,000 service people who went to the Gulf with those of 3,000 who did not. Professor Nicola Cherry, of the School of Epidemiology and Health Sciences at Manchester University, will try to determine whether there was an excess of ill health among service people who served in the Gulf.

Dr Patricia Doyle, of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, will study the reproductive health of Gulf War ex-servicemen and their children.

Pesticide study, page 2



"I believe in Gulf War syndrome if there was more proof that it existed"

en new ammunition to the Gulf War ex-servicemen suffering from a range of diseases who have complained of a lack of information.

The investigation to find guilty civil servants and military officials who supplied the "blown" information about pesticide use to ministers will be headed by Richard Mottram, the ministry's permanent under-secretary.

Those who supplied the information that underpinned the use of pesticides are believed to be grade 7 officials working in a central staff secretariat. The first parliamentary answer that misled the Commons was given in July 1994 by Jeremy Hanley, then Armed Forces Minister and now a Foreign Office minister. That flawed answer was then submitted repeatedly in reply to subsequent parlia-

mentary questions in the Commons and in the House of Lords until September 25 this year when ministers were given the true picture.

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Pesticide study, page 2



A member of B Company, The Royal Scots, based near the Gulf War front line, receives an injection in Saudi Arabia against chemical attack

Six Army officers are charged with rape

By ADRIAN LEE AND MICHAEL EVANS

SIX young Army officers have been charged with raping a civilian student at the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham in Wiltshire. The six officers, two of whom are captains, have been charged over an alleged incident on May 27.

An investigation by Ministry of Defence police into the allegations only began this month because the woman involved did not come forward until recently.

The court lists those charged as Captain Philip

James Bates, 25, of Bordon, Hampshire; officer cadet Darren Bartlett, 23, of Arborfield, Reading; officer cadet Andrew John Stout, 20, of Littledean Avenue, Whitchurch, Newcastle; officer cadet Nicholas Oettinger, 20, of Preston, Lancashire; and Captain Matthew James Tupling, 23, of Bordon, Hampshire. The officer arrested in Yorkshire is Lieutenant Jan Barlow, 28. All are members of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

The alleged victim complained to Thames Valley Police on November 11 but the investigation was handed to police at the Ministry of Defence, who are responsible for inquiries relating to MoD Crown property.

It has university status and awards science, technology, engineering and management degrees. About 1,000 students a year pass through the college which occupies a parkland estate between Oxford and Swindon. Most army officers will spend at least some time at Shruivenham, which also provides special courses on terrorist bombs and other explosive devices for officers and NCOs deployed in Northern Ireland.

Willets report to be issued today

The Commons Committee on Standards and Privileges said last night that it had agreed on a report over the David Willets affair, but no details would be published until today. On Monday the committee broke up in disarray after failing to agree over the severity of punishment it would recommend for the Paymaster General.

Mandela seals 'new freedom'

President Mandela of South Africa has signed into law the post-apartheid Constitution at a ceremony in Sharpeville that drew a symbolic line under the country's troubled past. Mr Mandela called on those watching the ceremony to join hands "for peace and prosperity". Page 12

Major attempts to deflect the Euro-fire to Labour

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN MAJOR asserted yesterday that Britain's negotiating position for the Dublin summit this weekend was being undermined because socialist governments in Europe were waiting for Tony Blair.

In a high-risk move to turn attention from the Tories' internal troubles, the Prime Minister launched a twin offensive — depicting Labour as the party that would cave in to Brussels, and the Tories as the defender of British interests.

At the same time ministers are making plain that they will reject key elements of an EU draft treaty to be discussed on Friday and Saturday.

Mr Major declared in the Commons that other European Governments were expecting "a very easy ride" were there to be a Labour government" and the surrender of

positions to which his Government was committed.

Admitting the national interest was being damaged by divisions in his party, he added: "What also damages the national interest is the belief among our partners that many of the positions that we hold would be surrendered by an alternative government."

His decision to try to turn the weekend's talks on Europe into an issue on which he can make ground against Labour will be followed by ministerial attacks which ask which party voters would rather have negotiating for Britain at the Amsterdam summit in June — after the general election.

Despite the Irish EU presidency's decision to skirt some of the more contentious issues in the draft treaty that it has

prepared for Dublin, Conservative sources say Mr Major will take a hard line on some areas. He will tell his partners that Britain under his Government would block:

Plans to abolish border controls by the next century

Proposals to extend Europol, the police intelligence agency, into a European force

Turning security policy into a matter for the EU rather than one for inter-government discussion

Any extension of qualified majority voting, thereby weakening the national veto

Strategists admit there is a risk in highlighting the prospect of a Labour government but believe votes can be won by pointing up that party's allegedly softer stance.

Leading article, page 17

Fire in tunnel 'was probably arson'

By BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS AND JONATHAN PRYNN

A DISTRESS flare thrown by a French protester during a wildcat strike probably started last month's Channel Tunnel fire, investigators into the cause of the blaze now believe.

Although the precise chain of events remains uncertain,

arson is rated the most plausible theory, according to sources close to the Eurotunnel investigating team. The investigation into the arson claims was reported first by *The Times* on November 21, two days after the fire.

The train had been held up for two hours at Calais by a wildcat strike by Eurotunnel staff protesting against a programme of redundancies announced that day.

Le Shuttle services began again at 7am yesterday with long queues of cars building up at the Folkestone toll booths from 5am. A spokeswoman for the company said most of the services through the day were fully booked. The company is operating about a third of its normal capacity with three departures every two hours and a capacity of about 4,000 cars a day.

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McDonald's big day ends with bunfight in Minsk

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN MOSCOW

A HISTORIC moment in fast food history turned into a public relations fiasco yesterday when riot police in Belarus tried to break up a crowd of potential customers at the country's first McDonald's restaurant.

The event, billed as a landmark in hamburger history, was supposed to celebrate the expansion of the McDonald's empire to the 100th country in the

world. However, the American fast food chain had clearly not taken into account recent political tensions in Belarus, where demonstrations by young pro-democracy protesters against the rule of President Lukashenko have frequently turned into clashes with security forces.

Trouble started when a crowd of thousands assembled outside the restaurant on Minsk's Francis Stariny Prospekt, the main thoroughfare frequently used by pro-democracy demon-

strators. Attracted by a midnight laser and fireworks display and rumours of free food, the crowd rushed to snap up the first Big Macs. Then, scores of Onion riot police, the main security force, tried to disperse them with truncheons.

Before the scuffles, McDonald's had touted the event as a watershed in its global expansion, and even hinted that the opening of its fast food outlets was a sign of stability in the world. "Country number 100 is a proud

moment for us — and a marker on a journey which is far from over," said James Cantalupo, the president of McDonald's International. "I am confident we will be celebrating country number 200 in the future."

Pavel Ryabov, McDonald's marketing manager in Russia, insisted the event "went smoothly". But some customers seemed far from satisfied with their first taste of the American dream. "Stuff the police with hamburgers!" shouted one young woman.

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TV & RADIO
WEATHER
CROSSWORD

42-43
22
22-44

LETTERS
OBITUARIES
SIMON JENKINS

17, 27
19
16

ARTS 31-33
CHESS & BRIDGE 38
COURT & SOCIAL 18

SPORT 38-42, 44
MEDIA 21
LAW REPORT 20

9 770140 046336 50

Single-minded song explains Nigel's empty nest

They could call him the Clitheroe Kid. Nigel Evans (Ribble Valley) is a fresh-faced and winsome young Tory who represents that town. He has become one of Westminster's most frequent chippers-in. For Madam Speaker, barely a Parliamentary afternoon passes unlit by Mr Evans's engaging glance or toothy smile: no day goes ungraced by his Welsh lilt.

Unfortunately he always says the same thing. "Does my Rt Hon friend agree that if Labour ever reached power the nation would be cursed with the minimum wage and the social chapter?" The mantra acquires a ritual quality: intoned more for sound than meaning. "Minimum wage 'n' the-

social chapter": this is young Nigel's song; increasingly his only song. Does the afternoon promise Questions to the Scottish Secretary? Evans is ready. Where would Scotland be, beneath the yoke of the minimum wage 'n' the social chapter?

Are MPs questioning the Agriculture Secretary? Evans is among them. How could farmers survive, ground down by the minimum wage 'n' the social chapter? Social Security Questions, Treasury Questions... every session rings to the mockingbird sound of the Ribble Valley song.

Ribble Valley is a beautiful place. Nigel Evans is a good-looking man. An MP makes a socially desirable spouse. This one is 38 and single. So Westminster-watchers have been

saddened by Mr Evans's lack of success in finding a lady who might rejoice in the name of Mrs Evans and share his constituency nest. He is not, they say, unsuceptible to feminine charms. One wonders why womankind is proving unsatisfactory to him.

Yesterday afternoon, Nigel encountered the Prime Minister. It being PM's Questions, and John Major having made some headway — turning the "European splits" issue back upon a wary Tony Blair — Evans rose. Miss Boothroyd

called him. As 1996 expires, here was his chance to ask something new. He asked something old. Did the PM comprehend the full horror of Labour's plans to introduce the minimum wage 'n' the social chapter?

Even kindly Mr Major looked bored. The Opposition looked maul-headed. Evans's friends looked resigned.

And all at once I understood why Mr Evans has failed to score with women. Picture the scene: Nigel is entertaining a young lady to a candlelight meal at a discreet table

in a small Clitheroe restaurant. Everything has gone swimmingly. Nigel and his companion sip the last of a dessert wine, exchanging glances over the guttering flame.

For reasons of delicacy the waiter has not disturbed the couple since topping up their glasses. Aware that her escort is a shy boy from the Welsh valleys and taking advantage of this pause in service, the young lady murmurs: "Ooh, isn't the service slow, Nigel. My little flat's just around the corner. Why don't we slip back there and try my percolator? You could help me with it. I've never really known how it's done..."

Young Evans's eyes light up. Go for it, Nigel! "Service slow? If you think the service is slow now, just

try eating out under a Labour Government after they've brought in the minimum wage 'n' the social chapter. Slow service? There'll be no service, under Labour [soundbite]. The consequences for the catering industry of the minimum wage 'n' the social chapter will be catastrophic. Restaurants will be shutting down all over Britain. Proof positive of New Labour's menace. Nor will restaurants be the only casualties. Small business as a whole will be devastated. Right across the board the dead hand of the minimum wage 'n' the social chapter...

His companion slips sadly away. She must make sure coffee is served here and not *chez-elle*. The spell is broken.

JERRY LAMPEN

Suspicion fell on Gulf War pesticides only two months ago

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE widespread use of organophosphate pesticides to kill disease-carrying insects in the Gulf was added to the long list of potential causes of the so-called Gulf War syndrome only two months ago.

Until the Ministry of Defence discovered that the pesticides had been sprayed liberally over every British army tent in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, suspicion had focused on the collection of vaccines given to all servicemen and women to counter chemical and biological warfare. Service personnel going to the front line in the Gulf were also given tablets called nerve agent pre-treatment sets.

Personnel spraying pesticides containing organophosphates should have worn protective clothing. Yet there were reports of large-scale spraying by unprotected soldiers, even over tented canteens where soldiers were eating.

Large doses of organophosphates which contain diazinon, acknowledged to be a dangerous substance, have caused illnesses among farmers. The MoD had said the amount of organophosphates used in the Gulf spraying was only small. Yet yesterday, MoD officials admitted that in future this type of pesticide spraying would be banned.

The team found that although it was known that pesticide was sent out to the Gulf, no accurate records were kept of the huge stocks bought locally by individual units.

The pesticides were used because there was concern about the hygiene threat to British troops and the number of troops sent to the Gulf doubled when it was decided to send another brigade. Arrangements were changed.

Pesticides bought locally came in metal flasks and the active ingredients were all written in Arabic. There were no English instructions. The MoD team discovered that 4 Brigade could have used a pesticide that contains 60 per cent diazinon.



An American artilleryman covers his face against sand during manoeuvres in Kuwait

US Nobel laureate changes mind on chemical weapon link to illness

FROM TOM RHODES
IN WASHINGTON

THE Pentagon, under growing pressure from Gulf War veterans over the possible exposure of American troops to chemical weapons, said yesterday that it was investigating the use of pesticides during the conflict. "It is one of the areas we are looking into to discover whether such agents may be associated with illnesses reported by our soldiers after the Gulf," a Pentagon official said.

At the same time, the American Nobel prizewinner who first discounted links between chemical weapons and illnesses reported by Gulf War veterans, said yesterday that evidence only released this year by the Pentagon had forced him to change his mind. Joshua Lederman, a

scientist and former president of the Rockefeller Institute, said the Pentagon had failed to supply him with details of an incident shortly after the war in which American combat engineers destroyed an Iraqi ammunition depot. The explosion at the sprawling Kamisiyah centre in southern Iraq had potentially exposed thousands of troops to nerve gas.

Mr Lederman told *The New York Times* that there should now be a new investigation into Gulf War syndrome to determine whether low doses of nerve gas could cause long-term illness. "We didn't get all the information, and I don't know where it was," said Mr Lederman, who made no claim that the Pentagon had tried to mislead his investigating panel. "The intelligence units in particular are very jealous of anything they hold."

They particularly defy access to their raw data. It's not surprising that there are goofs-ups of this sort from time to time."

The comments by Mr Lederman throw into question many of the conclusions of a study the Pentagon has cited for two years to insist there was no evidence of American soldiers being exposed to chemical weapons, let alone that they may have been made ill by the poisons. Shortly after the war the Pentagon denied that any chemicals had been present in the Gulf, later it admitted that some Americans may have been exposed, finally this year, admitted, that thousands could have been at risk.

Earlier this week it emerged that logs for the eight-day period during the Kamisiyah explosions had either been removed or lost from Pentagon records.

Ammunition worth £4m 'lost' by Army in Bosnia

By MICHAEL EVANS

ARMY munitions, including 450 Milan anti-tank missiles, worth £4 million, are missing from stocks in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the National Audit Office has discovered in its first investigation during an operational deployment of troops abroad.

The NAO said that there

had been a breakdown in controls over stores and ammunition in particular. It also disclosed that the Ministry of Defence is spending more than £500,000 a month on renting 90 properties in Bosnia and Croatia. The ministry has launched an inquiry in an attempt to find the lost ammunition, the latest in a series of investigations.

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Ulster pays a £120m price for end of the ceasefire

BY NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

ULSTER paid an extra price for the resumption of terrorism yesterday when the Province's security budget was increased by £120 million at the expense of social programmes.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, said he deeply regretted the move but blamed the IRA and loyalists who brought the Province to a standstill over the summer. Sir Patrick said:

"I would have much preferred to have used this money, for example, job creation, schools, hospitals and housing."

The peace dividend has also been reversed and this has obviously an adverse effect on the provision of public service in Northern Ireland. The IRA and those responsible for the disturbances which occurred last summer bear a heavy responsibility."

The security budget has been increased to £934 million for the year 1997-98. The RUC will receive an extra £77 million over the next three years. The Compensation Agency, which puts out to victims of terrorism, will receive an extra £42 million over the same period.

Sir Patrick gave a graphic description of the huge costs of the renewed violence, saying that £17 million paid out for arson claims in July, August and September was enough to build 17 new primary schools or 450 new houses.

The increased spending on security has led to cuts in other areas. The Department of Agriculture budget, in the Province next year, has been cut by £3 million, housing has been cut by £5 million, and environmental services by £3 million.

The education budget has been increased by £30 million in real terms, but there are cutbacks in key areas. Funding for university research departments has been reduced by £4 million and teachers will no longer receive funding for additional qualifications.

Minister rejects call for rule to protect jobseekers' benefits

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS refused to introduce a rule yesterday to ensure that the unemployed would not lose their benefit if they rejected jobs in the personal services industry.

Labour accused the Government of turning the Employment Service into an "on the job club" after the Employment Minister Eric Forth refused to bring in a new law.

Pressure for change came after an unemployed woman in Sheffield was told to attend an interview for a receptionist's post at a male escort agency. She was told she

would have to give details of prices for home massages.

Mr Forth, in a written reply, said: "I am satisfied that the legislation already contains adequate safeguards." He rejected calls to ban vacancies in the personal services industry from employment centres.

He said the guidance to the Employment Service would be strengthened to try to prevent jobseekers being subjected to applying for "undesirable" or "inappropriate" vacancies. No sanctions would be imposed if jobseekers had good cause for

refusing or failing to apply for an opportunity, he said. "Adjudication officers should take into account any relevant matter when deciding whether good cause was shown."

The Labour Party, which is compiling a list of jobcentre advertisements for vacancies in massage parlours, saunas, and kissogram agencies, will attack the guidance at Employment Questions today.

Under the terms of the jobseekers' allowance, claimants risk losing their benefit unless they attend interviews proposed by their jobcentre.

Bottomley backed by watchdogs on screen violence

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

TELEVISION watchdogs agreed yesterday to tighten up their codes on screen violence, as new research showed that nearly 80 per cent of children regularly watch adult programmes after the 9pm family viewing watershed.

The findings from the market research company ChildWise, which are due to be published next week, coincide with growing concerns that existing rules on television violence are not working. Although official surveys show that around 90 per cent of adults are aware of the watershed, parents are clearly not enforcing it.

At a meeting yesterday with Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, Sir Christopher Bland, chairman of the BBC, Sir George Russell, chairman of the Independent Television Commission and Lady Howe, chairwoman of the Broadcasting Standards Council, agreed to Government demands to do more "to educate and inform" parents so they could exercise better control over their children's viewing.

The ITC and the BSC said they would tighten up their codes of practice in 1997. The BBC has recently revised its own Producers' Guidelines. All three regulators said they would ensure that programme-makers maintain proper standards.

Although she conceded that the amount of television violence is declining, Mrs Bottomley is understood to be particularly concerned about violence cropping up in pre-watershed "family" programmes such as *EastEnders*, *The Bill*, *Neighbours* and *Brookside*.

"There are times when violence seems too prominent in the schedules, and this can be disturbing for many viewers, young and old," Mrs Bottomley said.

Mrs Bottomley said more research was needed before she could consider legislation requiring new televisions to be fitted with electronic scramblers or V-chips, to prevent sets receiving violent programmes.

Instead, she said she would make funds available for research into improving advance programme information for viewers, whether in listings magazines, in programme trailers and announcements on screen, or teletext or in other forms.

The *ChildWise* survey shows Mrs Bottomley's concerns are not unfounded. The study shows that on schooldays 50 per cent of children watch television after 6pm rising to 77 per cent at weekends. The survey is based on interviews with 1,014 five to 15-year-olds. This marks a considerable increase on last year's figures, which showed just 30 per cent watching after 6pm on weekdays and 70 per cent at weekends.

"The findings reveal a very high level of viewing of violent films by children with the parent's acquiescence if not their approval," Martyn Richards of ChildWise said.

After the meeting Lady Howe stressed that research showed people who wanted to be informed about world events were very firm about their need to be informed by television. "They need to know some of the horrors that go on in the rest of the world. They don't want these to be, as it were, censored out in any sense," she said.

PEACE AT C

A translation in a report (December 6) of an article in the Italian paper *La Repubblica* wrongly said that the presence of Eileen Carey, wife of the Archbishop of Canterbury, who accompanied her husband at an informal meeting with the Pope, was "a deliberate affront to the Vatican". In fact the article said that Mrs Carey's presence was the most singular aspect of the Prince's visit, and a visible reminder to the Pope of the issues of women priests and married clergy. We apologise for the error.

CORRECTION

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'I told her just to take half — she said "we have done it before" and took a whole one'

Leah Betts was warned not to take Ecstasy

BY MICHAEL HORNSEY

LEAH BETTS ignored a warning from her best friend before taking the Ecstasy tablet which killed her as she celebrated her 18th birthday.

Sarah Cargill, 18, told Norwich Crown Court yesterday that she had advised Miss Betts to take only half the tablet because she was concerned that it was stronger than the Ecstasy she had experimented with before. But she swallowed the whole pill and collapsed into a coma around three hours later.

Miss Betts, who died at her parents' home in Latchingdon, Essex, in November last year, obtained the drug through a network of friends. The court was told that one, Stephen Smith, 19, of Basildon, Essex, has admitted being involved in the supply of the drug which killed Leah. But Steven Packman, 18, of Laindon, Essex, denies being involved in its supply.

The tablet was allegedly obtained by Mr Packman, a college student, from an unknown source at Raquel's



Leah Betts went into coma after taking drug

nightclub in Basildon. The teenager, who bought four tablets for £40, had been asked by Mr Smith, his best friend, to purchase them after he in turn received a request from his girlfriend, Louise Yedey.

It was Miss Yedey who had earlier been asked by Miss Cargill to obtain the drugs for the birthday party.

Miss Betts, who knew all of them from school and college days, told her father, Paul, before slipping into the coma that it was Smith who had supplied the drugs.

Mr Betts, a former policeman, listened intently yesterday to the evidence given by Smith, who will be sentenced at the end of Mr Packman's trial.

Andrew Williams, prosecuting,

told the court that Miss Betts had died from the idiosyncratic effect of taking Ecstasy. There was nothing chemically wrong with the tablet but "something peculiar" about Miss Betts and the consumption of the drug led to her death, the cause of which

had perhaps never been satisfactorily established. Mr Williams told the jury: "It's as well to remember the defendant is not charged with culpability regarding her death but with supplying drugs."

He said Miss Betts was a relative novice to the drugs. She had taken Ecstasy once or twice before and indeed smoked cannabis. You may conclude that Leah Betts, like so many young people, was enthusiastic about life and eager to explore what it had to offer. In the pursuit of excitement she fell tragic victim to the inherent perils of taking drugs," he told the jury.

He spoke of the arbitrary nature of the peril and said that Miss Cargill suffered no ill-effect from the single Ecstasy tablet she also took. "They both, Sarah and Leah, had been unable themselves to obtain these Ecstasy tablets.

They wanted to take them but couldn't by their own devices buy them. They were obliged to obtain the tablets by the good offices of a friendship network," said Mr Williams.

The chain that led to the Ecstasy tablets, with apple motifs, being supplied was like any other around the country supplying drugs "day in, day out", Mr Williams said. Smith talked to Mr Packman at the club, it was alleged, about having agreed to obtain Ecstasy for the two girls and Mr Packman then said he would obtain some for him.

The four tablets were handed back down the chain from

Mr Packman in a cellophane packet to Smith, who put them

in a matchbox, to Louise Yedey, who handed them over to Sarah Cargill, who gave one to Leah and one to herself at the start of the party.

After Miss Betts's death, Miss Yedey and Miss Cargill both admitted to police their role and were cautioned.

Meanwhile, a reporter on *The News of the World* approached Bernie King, the bouncer at the nightclub. A tape recording was made of a conversation between him and Mr Packman in which, the court was told, the defendant "freely and unguardedly" admitted buying the tablets at the club and giving them to Smith. He said that his defence when interviewed by police would be that he remembered nothing of what had happened because he was drunk.

Smith told the jury that he was arrested the day that Leah collapsed and interviewed about supplying the drugs. "I knew the drugs were for Sarah and Leah. That was the understanding. Louise handed over £40 and the order was for four tablets."

"I didn't like the idea of going up to people in the club so I decided that I would wait to see if I was approached. I wasn't approached. I was talking to Steven and he volunteered to go and run the errand."

"He was away for about ten minutes. He came back and said 'I have got the tablets'."

Under cross-examination, Smith denied that he had concocted the story implicating Mr Packman and given evidence against his best friend in order to secure a more lenient sentence for himself. He added: "I can't justify what I did — it was a spontaneous and foolish decision."

Miss Cargill told the jury that Miss Betts lived with her during the week while studying at Basildon College. Miss Cargill said that both of them had begun to take drugs at the start of last year — cannabis, "whizz" (amphetamines), LSD on one occasion, and Ecstasy four times.

Miss Cargill said: "I gave the money to Louise on the Friday. I was told on Saturday,



Steven Packman and his mother arriving at Norwich Crown Court where he denies supplying the drug which led to Miss Betts's death at her birthday party

afternoon that I would receive the Ecstasy. Louise handed them to me in a matchbox. There were four Ecstasy tablets."

Miss Cargill told the court that in the past she and Miss Betts had taken Ecstasy tablets which had a dove motif engraved on them. But the tablets Smith had brought

back from the nightclub had an apple motif.

Because of that, Miss Cargill said she had advised Miss Betts only to take half a tablet. "At first I told her just to take half because Stephen had

said to Louise over the phone that they were different ones, so I said to Leah only take half." Miss Cargill told the

court. "They were a little bit stronger." She added: "[Leah] said 'we have done it before' so she took a whole one."

Miss Cargill said the tablet she took did not affect her any differently to previous tablets.

She said she had seen Leah "drink a few drinks" and she was also smoking cannabis.

The trial continues today.

Schoolgirl has peace talks at No 10 and White House

BY ROBIN YOUNG

A POETIC plea for peace earned meetings with John Major and President Clinton. For Sophia Clarke, 11, who has a rare genetic disorder, her mother, Tina, sent the girl's poem, called *Poetry at Christmas*, to the television presenter Noel Edmonds. He sent it to the Prime Minister and the US President, who replied almost immediately.

On Christmas Day viewers will see Edmonds, host of BBC1's *Noel's Christmas Presents*, surprise Sophia by pretending to be a London tour guide before taking her to 10 Downing Street and to the White House in Washington.

The girl yesterday explained the inspiration for the poem: "I

was thinking about all the people who were dying in Rwanda. I wrote it and my mum put in all the full stops and capital letters. All my friends wanted to come with me to Washington."

Sophia, from Droitwich, Hereford and Worcester, spent 30 minutes with President Clinton and his wife Hillary. The President said: "I was very flattered to be in the poem of a brave young girl from another country. It was very moving. I was delighted to meet her and welcome her to the White House."

Mrs Clinton said: "It was a pleasure for Sophia to be the first person to see our Christmas decorations. She is an inspiring child. I hope her determination for peace at Christmas is mirrored around the world."

The Prime Minister said he had enjoyed reading Sophia's poem: "I believe it is a very good Christmas message for world peace."

Edmonds said: "We were genuinely surprised to be granted this chance to go to the White House. It is very rare for them to do this. There is a wonderful moment when Sophia's dad, Peter, says something to Bill Clinton and he has this blank look: Peter has quite a strong accent."

Sophia has Niemann-Pick disease, which affects her coordination and balance.

PEACE AT CHRISTMAS by SOPHIA CLARKE

Here I am sad and alone
Thinking of all the bad things done.
The news is full of doom and gloom.
I hope there will be joy everywhere soon.

People in the nations afar
Will look upon the Christmas star
To make their wish for peace on Earth
And free them from the pain of war.

Will John Major and Bill Clinton help
To make their wish come true?
Everyone would be happy,
Especially me and you.

If all the world could be the same
Far off lands would suffer no pain,
Children everywhere would laugh and play.
If only the world could be this way.



Passenger aimed gun at guard

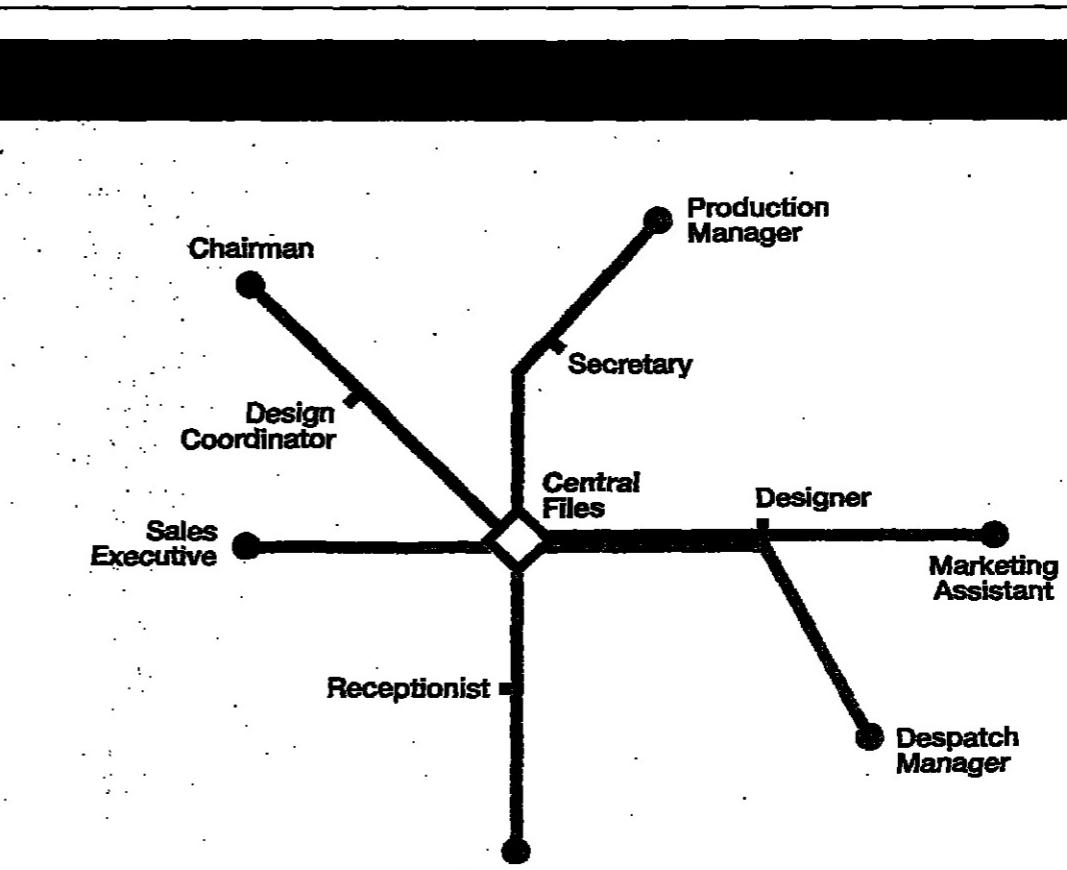
BY A STAFF REPORTER

A FORMER marketing executive produced a shotgun and pointed it at a railway guard after being ejected from a train at a remote Scottish station for refusing to stop smoking, a court was told yesterday.

Allan Symington, 36, the guard, told Stirling Sheriff Court that Alexander MacKinnon, 27, was "staggering drunk" when he joined the train from Glasgow to Fort William last October. On several occasions, he said, he and the senior train guard had to ask Mr MacKinnon to obey ScotRail's no-smoking rule. Mr MacKinnon refused and the senior guard asked him to leave the train at Crieff station.

Mr Symington said: "On the platform he bent down and opened up a case and started putting together a shotgun. He pointed it at me and asked if he could get back on the train. He seemed quite annoyed. He kicked the train and said ScotRail was rubbish."

The court was told that Mr MacKinnon, who had inherited the £40,000 Purdey shotgun from his grandfather, had moved from London to Edinburgh since the incident. Mr MacKinnon denies causing a breach of the peace, being drunk in charge of a gun and placing members of the public in fear and alarm. The trial was postponed until February.



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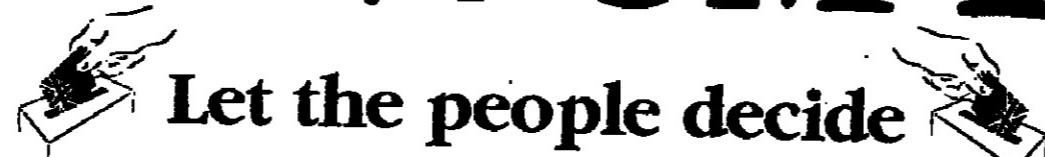
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Referendum Party.

In a Harris opinion poll taken across the nation on 7th December, 14% of voters said that if they are not offered a full referendum on Europe, they would definitely consider voting for the Referendum Party, and a further 19% said they would probably consider voting for the Referendum Party. The 33% are drawn from all three major political parties.

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This advertisement prepared by Banks Hoggins O'Shea on behalf of the publisher: the Referendum Party, 1st Floor, Dean Bradley House, 52 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AR.

Row brews over who will pay for new Thames footbridge

By MARCUS BINNEY

A NEW pedestrian bridge across the Thames in London will be "an elegant razor-sharp blade, a minimalist intervention", according to its designer, the architect Sir Norman Foster.

However, the bridge linking St Paul's Cathedral and the new Tate Gallery of Modern Art at Bankside looks set to create a sizeable row between the Millennium Commission and the City Corporation over who should meet the lion's share of the £10 million cost. The commission is being asked to find 50 per cent, but the corporation's Bridge House Fund, set up in the 12th century when the old London Bridge was begun, is now worth £368 million and is still accumulating.

The bridge's backers say it will be London's elegant answer to the Pont des Arts in Paris, a pedestrian bridge linking the Louvre and the Left Bank. The sculptor Sir Anthony Caro, who is Sir Norman's partner in the project, said: "The design is an extension of sculpture. The 4m-wide structure will be, far longer than the Paris bridge, it crosses a 250m stretch of the

Thames and its central span will be a breathtaking 240m. "I can think of no pedestrian bridge with a longer central span," Chris Wise of Ove Arup and Partners, the engineers for the project, said.

The international competition to design the bridge attracted 226 entries. The Foster proposal, unlike most of the other finalists, centres on the axis of St Paul's steps and will briefly interrupt the view of the cathedral dome, which passing riverboats like to point out to their passengers.

Roger Ridsdale Smith, the project engineer who produced the original idea, said: "We wanted to design an absolutely flat structure. It's like taking a ribbon and pulling it tight as you can so people can walk on it."

The bridge deck will be of wooden planks, like a pier, allowing a glimpse of the water below. The balustrades, rising to elbow height, will be of stainless steel. Sir Norman said: "One reason why we rejected a covered bridge was that the glass would require constant cleaning. Walking out of doors is one of the pleasures of London and the bridge will offer spectacular new views along the Thames in both directions." No fewer than seven other bridges will be visible. To emphasise its minimal horizontal lines, the bridge will be without lamp-posts or other vertical elements.

Some members and officials of the City Corporation are sceptical about the bridge. They believe that pedestrians are much more likely to use the new walkways proposed for Blackfriars railway bridge, where Railtrack plans to extend Blackfriars station so that it serves both sides of the river.

Millennium company seeks to save project

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

THE organisers of the Millennium Exhibition at Greenwich meet the Millennium Commission today with pledges of only two-thirds of the private sponsorship that is required.

Millennium Central, the company behind the £700 million scheme, will seek to persuade the commission that if it provides £200 million of lottery cash, other big investors will come forward. However, even if the commission gives the go-ahead, questions would remain over an incoming Labour government's commitment to underwriting the project.

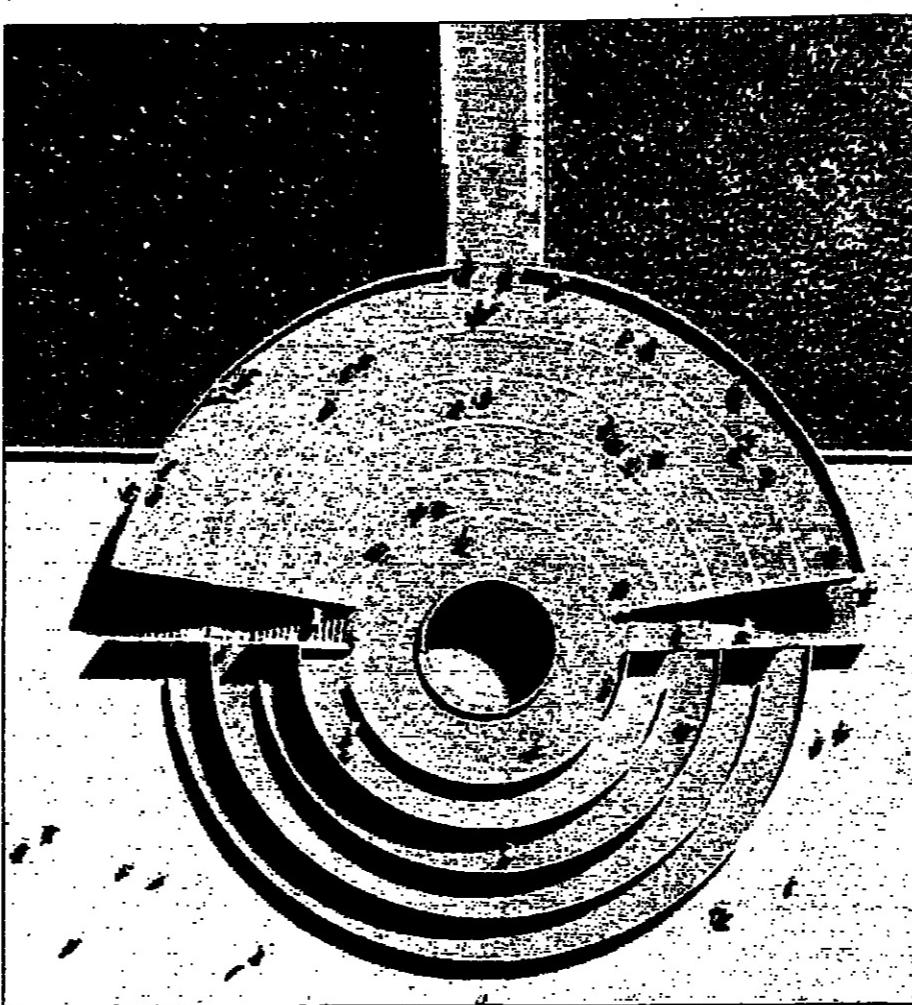
Millennium Central, which presents its plan to Michael

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A model of the Thames pedestrian bridge shows its base at the Bankside end

Ill Fiennes may have to abandon expedition

THE future of Sir Ranulph Fiennes's attempt to become the first man to walk alone and unaided across the Arctic was uncertain last night after it emerged that he was suffering from kidney stones.

Twenty-six days into his journey, the adventurer was said to be in great pain and feeling nauseous, but was melting snow to provide drinking water to help the stones to pass through his body. His sponsors, Dyson, said he had been forced to halt for a time and the next 48 hours would be critical.

Sir Ranulph, who is competing against other international expeditions, has suffered from the condition twice before. Doctors advised him by radio that there was no cause for immediate alarm and that he was taking the necessary medication. However, he may have to abandon his attempt unless his condition improves.

Sir Ranulph is attempting to raise £1 million for the breast cancer charity, Breakthrough.



TEARS AND TANTRUMS

Why Cupid has a hard time in Hollywood, in the Magazine

SECOND SKIN

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Book Tokens

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One man and his dog fight to save nation's hedgerows

BY PAUL WILKINSON

THE fate of 40,000 miles of English hedgerow is hanging on the outcome of a court action brought by a retired teacher who has successfully fought 80 environmental legal battles against some of the largest organisations in the country.

Colin Seymour hopes that his campaign to save 56 yards of hawthorn hedge bordering an old allotment site near to his home will set a precedent that lawmakers will be unable to ignore. The outcome will be watched with interest by the Department of Environment, which is framing hedgerow protection legislation for a new Environment Bill planned for next year.

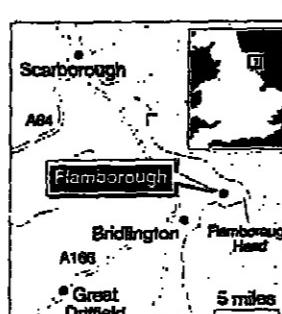
Mr Seymour, 63, from Flamborough in east Yorkshire, is seeking a declaration in Hull County Court that an Act passed more than two centuries ago is still valid. If Judge Cracknell rules in his

favour, it will compel the local parish council to abandon plans to grub up the hedge to make way for a bowling green and, instead, maintain the hawthorn in perpetuity.

"This is not a battle between the parish council and a little old man with a small black dog and a carrier bag full of documents," Mr Seymour said yesterday. "There will be no winner or loser. This is about protecting the countryside and the wildlife which lives in it."

After a brief hearing yesterday, the judge acknowledging the considerable public interest in his decision, reserved his judgment and promised to make it known as soon as possible.

The Flamborough Enclosure Act of 1765 is one of thousands of similar Acts passed when peasants were forced off common land that was fenced off by landowners.



The Act compelled the owners to maintain the newly fenced-off land.

Outside the court yesterday Mr Seymour, who is supported by the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, said: "What happens here will affect more than 40,000 miles of hedgerow across the country. There are 4,000 Acts like the one for Flamborough and this decision will affect each of them."

"I am taking this action because no one else, no countryside group, seems prepared to do so. If we do not act, this

traditional and familiar part of our countryside and all those flora and fauna which rely upon it, will disappear for ever."

Mr Seymour, a member of the Byways and Bridleways Trust, moved to Flamborough eight years ago and has become a familiar figure at public inquiries up and down the country. In his first case, against the National Coal Board in 1977, he successfully opposed plans for multi-million-pound, open-cast mines around his south Yorkshire home. In the past two decades he has forced councils to drain tunnels and rebuild bridges.

"I have won against British Coal, British Rail, British Waterways, every county council in Yorkshire and most local authorities," Mr Seymour said. "In only one case did I not get the order I was seeking and then I got two thirds of my costs." In case promised actions are not carried out,



Digging in: Colin Seymour, his dog Fred and the hedgerow at the centre of a county court action over its preservation

he tape-recordings proceedings. Peter Pearson, chairman of the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, said: "This case is not about whether a bowling green should or should not be made, it is about whether the hedgerow is still protected by law. Even the loss of 56 yards of

hedgerow is a significant loss to wildlife which relies on it." Mr Seymour's stand has not been well received in Flamborough. The parish council originally intended to oppose his court action, but pulled out because of the cost. Gordon Scrowston, the clerk, said:

"We only wanted to build four bowling lines on four vacant allotments. It would have been an asset for the village, but to do so we had to take up a section of hedge. Then Mr Seymour came along and said the hedge must be maintained. He issued a summons

against us and we defended it up to a point. Unless he fails in this action, we can't have a bowling club."

A resident said: "This is a remote village and can be lonely at times. He is opposing a public amenity which would benefit us all."

Countryside campaigners divided over wisdom of invoking enclosure laws

BY MICHAEL HORNBY
COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

CONSERVATIONISTS are divided over the wisdom of invoking 200-year-old enclosure laws to protect hedgerows, one of the glories of the English countryside. While some believe the enclosure Acts could be used to save hedges from destruction, others say countryside lovers risk losing more than they gain by testing the

validity of those ancient laws.

Richard Mabey, author of *Flora Britannica*, said: "It is a dangerous mistake to assume the enclosure Acts were simply about planting hedges. They also obliterated public rights of way that had existed for centuries and wiped out huge tracts of common land."

Mr Mabey, a director of the pressure group Common Ground, said he feared unscrupulous landowners could cite the Acts to seek

closure of public footpaths which have been reinstated over the past hundred years and to resist the re-registration of common land.

Total hedgerow length has fallen from about 300,000 miles in 1945 to about 250,000 today as farmers have enlarged their fields to grow more crops and maximise efficient use of modern machinery.

Up until ten years ago, the Ministry of Agriculture was still offering farmers grants to encourage the

grubbing up of hedges in the name of agricultural "improvement". In a reversal of policy, farmers are now paid to replant hedges, although it is believed that many are still being lost every year.

Two months ago the Environment Department unveiled long-awaited measures to protect hedges of special historic and wildlife interest by requiring farmers to get the permission of local authorities before removing a hedge.

Failure to do so would entail fines of up to £5,000. It is intended the measures should become law during this Parliament.

Sian Phipps, of the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE), said: "Even on the Government's own estimate, less than a fifth of all hedges would be protected under these proposals. That is not enough. Toughening the Government's own measures

guarding hedges." For the time being hedges remain unprotected by any modern environmental legislation. Farmers and landowners are fighting a rearguard action against the proposed controls.

Many hedges date from Saxon times, when they were planted to mark parish boundaries. But most of those now in existence were created between 1750 and 1850, when landowners had thousands of private Bills passed by Parliament

enclosing 6.5 million acres of what had previously been common land and open fields and pasture.

In its day, enclosure was, if anything, seen as an even greater act of countryside vandalism than the recent ripping out of hedges the enclosures created. The poet John Clare, who saw the destruction of the medieval landscape of Northamptonshire, likened enclosure to a Bonaparte laying waste to everything in his path.

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DIXONS

Students studied fraud on Internet

BY RICHARD FORD

TWO students at Portsmouth University used a guide and information freely available on the Internet to defraud companies out of computer software worth £5,500.

Ibrahim Baig and Pretesh Patel, both aged 21, obtained credit card numbers that were posted on the Internet by unscrupulous users. Southampton Crown Court was told. The students used the details to persuade companies to send them computer software over a three-month period.

Christopher Wing, for the prosecution, said the information on how to carry out the fraud was freely available on the Internet: "It gives precise details as to how credit card details can be obtained."

Mr Wing said Patel had accessed three Internet sites to get credit card information.

The sites also provided tips on how to pose convincingly as the owner of a card.

The software was sent to two addresses provided by Patel and Baig. The addresses were empty houses so that delivery men would leave forwarding addresses from where the goods could be collected. Baig posed as a Mr Khan to collect the goods and Patel advertised the software in *Loot*, the London small-ads publication.

The pair were caught when one firm double-checked the credit details and called the police. The students were arrested when they tried to collect computers from a Group 4 security compound.

Both men admitted obtaining property by deception. Patel, from Portsmouth, was ordered to repay £3,200, do 200 hours community service and pay £300 costs. Baig, from Southsea, must serve 80 hours of community service and pay £223 costs.



Nicholas Kenyon

BBC goes in to bat for music of the century

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

RADIO 3 is undertaking a crusade to bring 20th-century music to the masses.

Starting in February, hundreds of hours of performances by the nation's leading orchestras and opera companies will be broadcast as part of the project "Sounding the Century". It will climax in Autumn 1999 with a festival, including an opera commissioned from Nicholas Kenyon to re-open the refurbished Royal Opera House.

The three-year season, to be co-ordinated by the composer George Benjamin, will celebrate the diversity of 20th-century music, from Elgar and Mahler through Schönberg and Stravinsky to contemporary composers such as Boulez. There will be lectures, documentaries and dramas. "This is Radio 3's most ambitious project to date," Nicholas Kenyon, the station's controller, said. "The aim was to overcome the fear of the unknown".

"It's about time we stopped thinking of modern music as a 'problem' and realised that our century has produced some of the most thrilling and moving music."

Primary teachers 'best paid in world'

BY JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

BRITAIN'S move to an all-graduate teaching profession has made primary teachers among the best-paid in the world, according to a comparison of education in industrialised nations.

Annual statistics produced by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) show that in relation to average income, only teachers in Ireland, Portugal and Spain do better than British primary school staff with 15 years' experience. Those in Germany and Switzerland are on a par with the British figure of £20,145.

The study suggests governments have had to choose between improving teachers' pay and reducing class sizes.

British teachers won substantial pay increases in the 1980s but still have among the largest classes. Only The Netherlands, Ireland and Turkey exceeded Britain's average of 21.7 pupils per teacher.

The UK ranked eighth in spending on primary education, at \$3,295 (£1,997) per pupil, eleventh in secondary spending, at \$4,494 (£2,724) and eighth in further and higher education at \$8,241 (£4,995). A commentary on the statistics suggests that "falling pupil/teacher ratios may be traded against lower pay rates".

Teaching unions said that the explanation lay in the single salary scale for primary and secondary teachers, and the move to an all-graduate profession.

The Department for Education said the report, *Education at a glance*, showed the proportion of young people in vocational education or training was among the highest in the 28-country study and graduation rates were the highest in Europe.

Stores beat Christmas rush with all-night shopping

BY STAFF REPORTERS

CONSUMERS can shop around the clock at two supermarket chains this Christmas, and for the first time in a quarter of a century trains are to run Christmas Day.

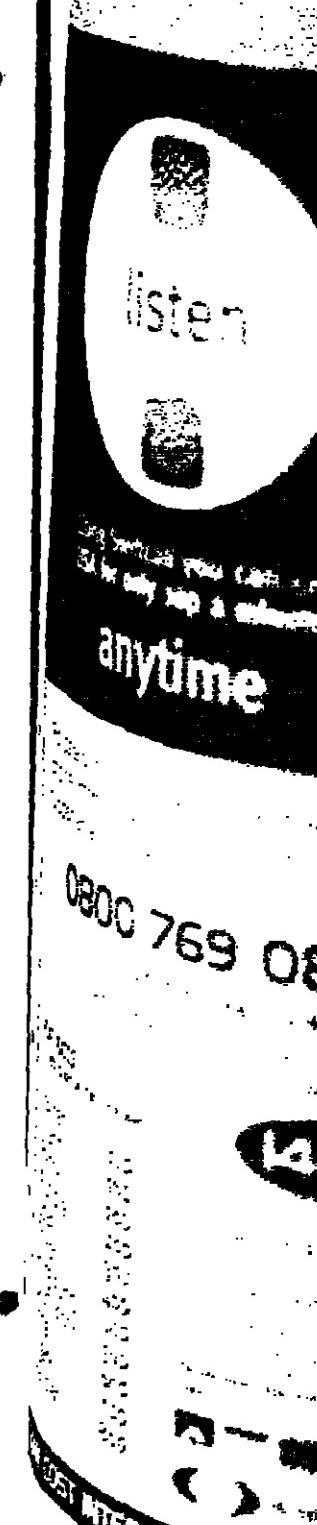
Safeway and Asda will keep open some stores for more than 24 hours to cope with the last-minute rush before the holiday shutdown on Christmas Eve. Tesco is also considering whether to open some of its stores for non-stop shopping. However, Sainsbury's, Somerfield and Waitrose have decided against 24-hour opening, contenting themselves with extended hours.

Safeway's all-day opening is being promoted as part of its

inburgh, Patchway in Bristol, and Watford, Hertfordshire.

Gawick Express, a private rail company, is to operate a half-hourly service between London Victoria and Gatwick Airport from 7am to 7pm. Journeys will be free and are being sponsored by British Airways, Continental Airlines and the British Airports Authority. Passengers will be served free mince pies and coffee during the day and free gin and tonic in the evening.

Up to the late 1960s, British Rail ran a skeleton Christmas Day service but in 1970 introduced the familiar two-day total shutdown over Christmas Day and Boxing Day.



Princess's model entrance marks Galliano's Dior debut

By GRACE BRADBURY
STYLE EDITOR

AMONG the fashion elite who gathered at the Metropolitan Museum Costume Institute gala, the short-lived presence of Diana, Princess of Wales, inspired a mixture of envy and awe.

Her midnight-blue, silk slip-dress looked like a rather elegant negligee to the uninitiated. But to those in the know, it was the fashion coup of the year — the first House of Dior dress by John Galliano, the British designer who took over in October as head of Christian Dior, France's grandest fashion house.

It was difficult to know who had more to gain — John Galliano and Dior, who in one evening garnered more publicity than most designers achieve in a year, or the Princess, whose fashion profile received an enormous boost.

The evening, held to mark the 50th anniversary of Dior's New Look, was also a triumph for Liz Tilberis, the British editor of the magazine *Harper's Bazaar*, who was chairwoman of this year's ball. Photographed at the Princess's side, she also wore a blue Dior gown — but by Gianfranco Ferré, the designer who stepped down earlier this year.

Though Ms Tilberis and the Princess are friends, it was Bernard Arnault, head of Dior, who invited her to attend the gala and who suggested, when Galliano took over at Dior, that a special dress could be designed for her.

Galliano and his team travelled from Paris to London three times for fittings, making their last visit on November 28, the designer's 35th birthday. He arrived at Kensington Palace to find that the Princess had organised a cake and champagne.

Though the dress may look simple, its construction is elaborate, the delicate bodice trimmed with lace forming a perfectly fitted foundation. It will have taken hundreds of hours for the *petites mains*, or seamstresses, to complete. The



The Princess, with her friend Liz Tilberis, arrives in the slip-dress fitted by Galliano in London over three sessions

cost of an haute couture

his injunction to seamstresses to make it "shorter, tighter".

Born in Gibraltar to a Spanish mother and Gibraltar father, Galliano came to Britain at the age of six and grew up in south London where his father worked as a plumber. He graduated from St Martin's School of Art in 1984 and, after years of financial insecurity, secured his Givenchy job last year. He is best known for his bias-cut slip dresses and the historical research which goes into many of his clothes.

Galliano's appearance can be eccentric but on Monday night he covered his often dreadlocked hair with a piratical scarf. The Princess had her new, slicker cut, a zig-zag parting, and a softer colouring.

She finished off her outfit with Dior's "Lady D" handbag and a pearl choker, inset with the sapphire and diamond brooch given to her by the Queen Mother.

Supersonic exit leaves ballgoers in a spin

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN NEW YORK

BALLGOERS at New York's "party of the year" were disappointed when Diana, Princess of Wales, failed even to honour a packed discotheque with a shake of her designer-clad hips.

The Princess, wearied by a long day, made an early departure from the Costume Institute ball. It appeared she may have bitten off more than she could chew when she agreed to attend the Manhattan social gala by "overnighting" it from London on Concorde.

Not even the lure of the Maxi Priest reggae band, nor the promise of cocktail party chat with some of the richest people in the world was enough to keep the Princess at the ball after 11pm (4am GMT). Her premature getaway crushed the dreams of hundreds of New Yorkers who had paid as much as \$1,000 (£600) each in the hope of catching more than a glimpse of the Princess.

In the Metropolitan Museum's Temple of Dendur, transformed for the night into a pumping disco, a multi-tiered crowd of party creatures included drag queens, feathered dancers and women covered in the barest weeds. The ball marked the 50th anniversary of Christian Dior's "New Look" and attracted an array of fashion industry names, including Calvin Klein, Christy Turlington, Christian Lacroix and John Galliano, the British designer of the Princess's dress.

Royal seal of approval for spiritual cancer care



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

THIRTEEN years ago the Prince of Wales opened the Bristol Cancer Help Centre, where the body, mind and spirit of patients with malignant disease can receive support. Any orthodox medical treatment that patients are receiving from the NHS is supplemented with complementary medicine at the centre. Last year, funds were no longer adequate to cope with the increasing patient demand and the centre's future seemed uncertain until the Prince again became actively involved, helping the fundraising effort.

Yesterday the Prince visited to talk to patients, supporters and staff. He said that he had always believed orthodox and complementary medicine should be "synergistic" and that combining them would give patients the best of both worlds. He hoped that the centre would inspire similar integration in other fields of medicine. The centre, financially sound once more, is handling 1,000 patients a year and is planning to expand nationally.

Sheila Hancock, the actress, was once a patient at the centre and spoke of the impact that it had on her life. Nine years ago she was found to be suffering from breast cancer. The diagnosis left her quaking with fear and certain that her life was over. Miss Hancock was advised by a friend to go to the Bristol centre, but did so with reluctance because she could not see how daintily-skirted and be-sandalled women, together with a diet of carrots, could help her.

She arrived in Bristol to find that the centre was staffed by workers of both sexes who behaved in a straightforward manner and that the food, even if vegetar-

ian, was extremely good. Other patients provided the mutual support she craved and the staff were able to answer all of her questions, which she felt were not always adequately dealt with in routine consultations.

The counselling helped her to face up to the cancer and to reorganise her time so that she could spend the rest of her life as she wanted to live it. Miss Hancock said: "In retrospect, I'm glad that I had cancer. It made me think and thereafter, with the help of the centre, I learnt to change my previously ludicrous lifestyle."

The centre is still equated in the public's mind with carrot juice and was therefore particularly busy yesterday, not only coping with the Prince's visit but with calls

from across the country about the *Times*' report that the amount of beta-carotene in three to four carrots could boost the immune system's ability to destroy cancer cells.

Fortunately for the centre's sake, the readers had not seen the other recent report by Dr Christopher Redhead in the journal *Feedback*, which described the newfound ability of scientists to engineer genetically carotenoid-rich foods such as tomatoes, red peppers and carrots so that they will contain three times the usual amount of these anti-oxidant vitamins.

The Bristol centre never was just about carrot juice, but if it had been it would still have been offering a useful service.

Prince treks across country for premiere

THE Prince took to the skies to join hundreds of "Trekkies" yesterday at the premiere of *First Contact*, the new Star Trek film.

After his former wife's transatlantic dash to fulfil two commitments on Monday, the Prince's challenge was more modest: he managed the 120-mile journey from Bristol to London by helicopter with plenty of time to prepare for the engagement at the Empire

cinema in Leicester Square.

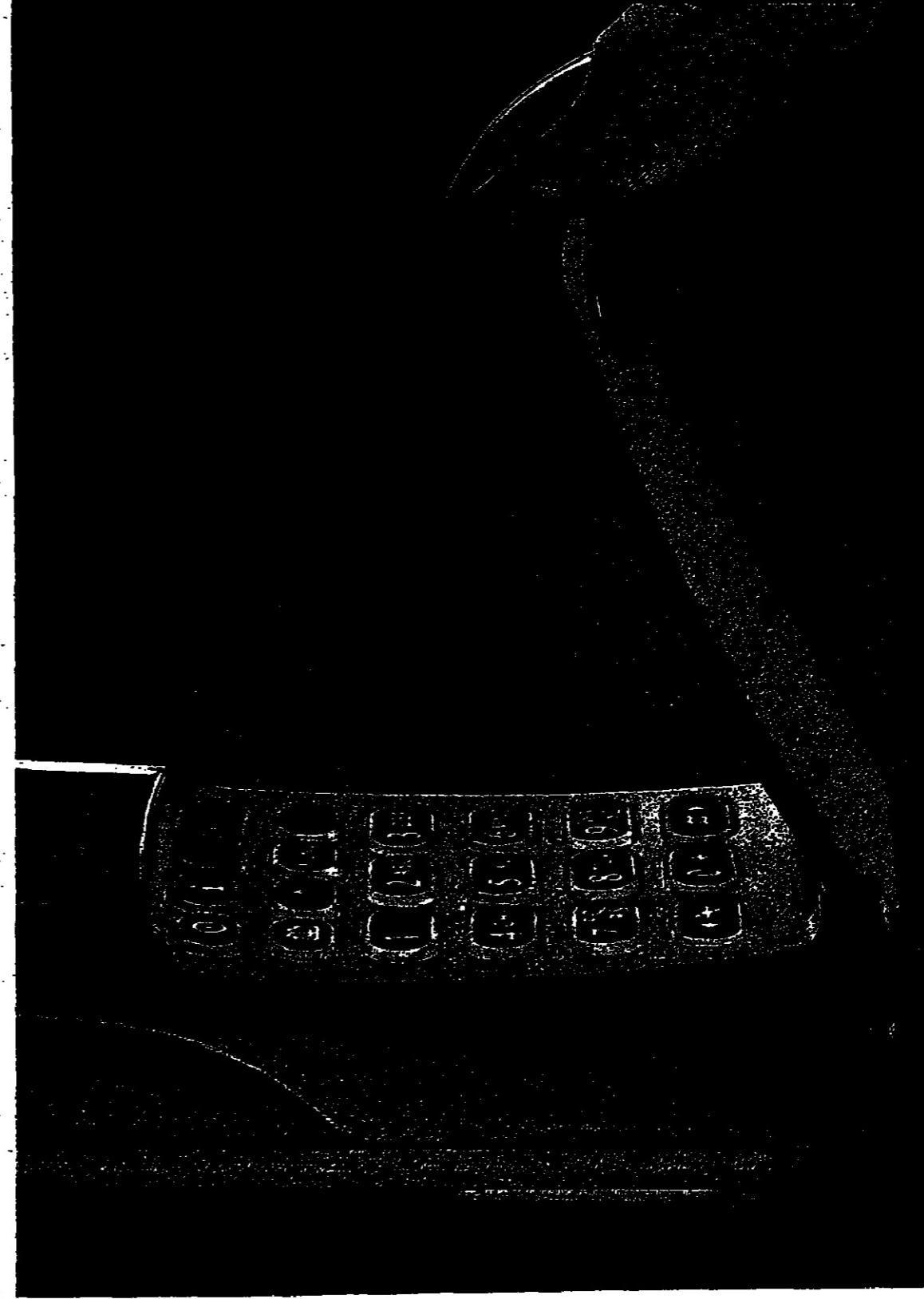
The film is the first without any of the cast from the original 1960s TV series. The Prince met Patrick Stewart, the British actor who stars as captain of the *Enterprise*, and other cast members.

First Contact reached the top of the American film charts last month, taking £18.6 million at the box office in its first weekend.

Review, page 33

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The New MicroTAC 8700



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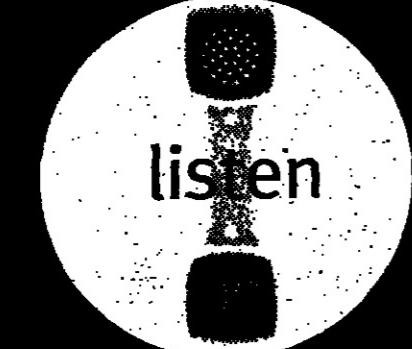
In fact, the MicroTAC 8700 phone has a list of features we think you'll find very impressive.

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*Times quoted are based on using the Extra Capacity 1600 NiMH battery.

Galliano: birthday cake at Kensington Palace

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LOW COST INTERNATIONAL CALLS

MOTOROLA

What you never thought possible.

Doctors pay for failure to apply for lottery grants

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of thousands of pounds have been lost to medical research because charities failed to apply for grants from the National Lottery, it emerged yesterday.

Doctors and scientists had been deterred from applying by misleading reports that the National Lottery Charities Board was not interested in funding medical research, members of the board said.

The board announced yesterday the first grants aimed at medical and social research charities. A total of 56 charities, from 243 that applied, received £8.6 million.

The Cancer Research Campaign, one of the most vociferous critics of the lottery's effect on charitable giving, received £477,000 to investigate cancer genes. The Children's Liver Disease Foundation received £189,000 for a project to develop an artificial liver machine, similar to a kidney machine.

Tenovus, the Cardiff cancer charity whose income was cut by £1.5 million a year after the lottery forced it to abandon its scratchcard game, was awarded £242,000 for a breast cancer project.

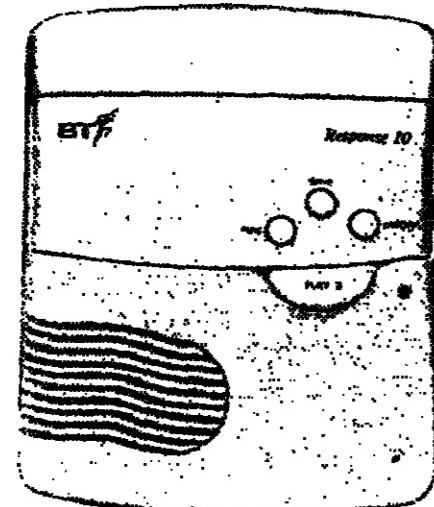
Among the 204 medical charities that applied — a third of all those in Britain — there were 43 successful applicants, who shared £6.7 million. This is less than 5 per cent of the total of between £150 million and £160 million to be handed out in the current round for projects in the health, disability and care fields.

The board is to give the bulk of the money to services for patients and clients. A series of announcements about the beneficiaries is to be made over the next six weeks.

David Sieff, chairman of the board, said 22 per cent of the medical and social research applications had been success-

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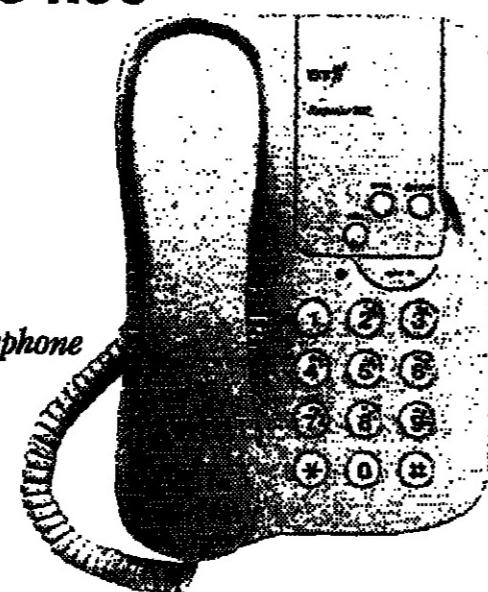


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Airline tries haute cuisine

British Airways is moving away from the despised "plastic" airline meal. Cabin crews, who are receiving training from the chef Michel Roux, are cooking passengers' meals to order. The new meals, introduced yesterday in first class on BA's 72 long-haul routes, mean that passengers can have anything from stuffed aubergine to cappuccino mousse. If successful, the scheme will be extended.

Police accused

Seven police officers were remanded on bail, accused of offences arising from clashes in east London with New Age travellers on their way to a music festival. They will appear at the Old Bailey next month.

Kosher beer

A German brewer has launched Europe's first kosher beer. Herrenhauser Kosher Pilsner, brewed in Hanover using barley left untouched during Passover, is certified by the Federation of Synagogues in London.

Player banned

The Liverpool winger Mark Kennedy was fined £600 and banned from driving for a year after a breath test showed he was nearly twice over the limit. He was recently fined £1,500 for careless and inconsiderate driving at Southport.

Vienna arrests

Police in Vienna investigating the shooting of two Manchester United supporters arrested a third man and recovered a pistol after a house search. The 37-year-old was later released. Two other men are due in court today.

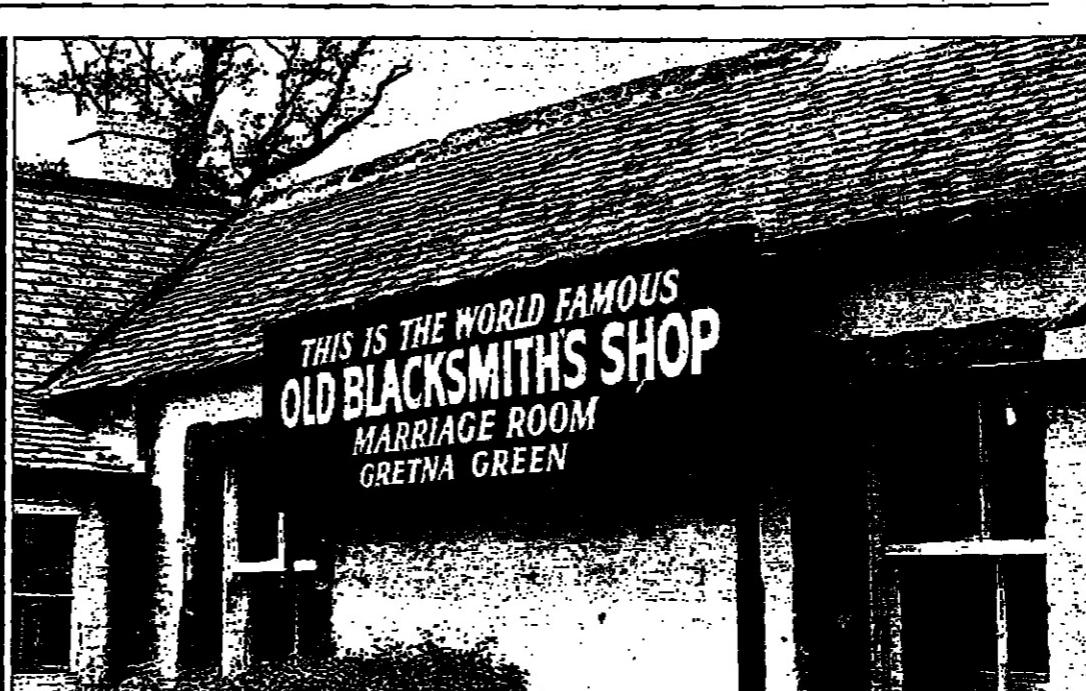
Celery sent off

Football fans at Second Division Gillingham are being subjected to celery searches. Anyone caught in possession is threatened with a life ban because of a trend among fans to wave sticks of it while chanting an obscene anthem.

Marriage records of eloping couples are put up for auction



David Lang, who made a business from eloping couples, and a "marriage room" that is now part of Gretna Green's tourist trade



From Gretna Green, a runaway best-seller

By ROBIN YOUNG

IT WAS the first stop on the road of true love or the last on the road to scandal. For over a century, runaway couples headed to Gretna Green for a marriage with no questions asked. And the man who cornered the high-class end of the market was David Lang.

The ledgers of his family business in elopement contain enough plots for a library of bodice-ripping romantic novels, ranging from the secret wedding of a former Lord Chancellor to the duplicitous abduction of a rich young heiress.

"I think it got into the subconscious of doctors and they felt we weren't interested so they didn't make inquiries. They had to apply through a charity but there were plenty of charities willing to make an application. It is sad."

□ The National Lottery announced its second marketing partnership — with Freemans home shopping. The catalogue company has teamed up with Camelot, the lottery operators, to send customers vouchers which are exchangeable for Lucky Dip tickets and an entry into the lottery draw.

The wedding of Edward-Gibbon Wakefield and Ellen Turner, left, was to be the death of Lang. Lord Erskine, right, whose wedding nearly cost him his freedom

border town after English law required wedding bans to be read three times before marriage. Gretna was the easiest destination to reach in Scotland, where ceremonies did not need parental consent, and couples simply declared their wish to be married in front of witnesses. David Lang, a former pedlar, became a Gretna "priest", simply noting down the date and names. One of the most famous scandals contained in papers is the 1818 wedding of the widower Lord Erskine, formerly Lord Chancellor, and his young housekeeper, Mary Buck, mother of his illegitimate child. His family tried to prevent their wedding and his sons were so opposed that they tried to have their father committed to an asylum. When he fled his Sussex home with his bride and headed for Scotland, he escaped pursuit by dressing as an old woman. He died five years later.

In 1826, another Gretna

Green scandal shocked Britain. Edward Gibbon-Wakefield, a dashing confidence trickster who had worked as a British Embassy official, presented himself at the Liverpool boarding school of a 15-year-old heiress with a forged letter to the governors saying that her mother was ill.

He persuaded the girl, Ellen Turner, daughter of a Cheshire factory owner, to accompany him, saying her inheritance depended on her marrying in Gretna Green.

The impressionable teenager fell in love with him on the way. After their wedding, the couple fled to France but her relatives caught them in Calais and persuaded the girl to leave her new husband.

Gibson-Wakefield returned to England to face trial with his accomplice, his brother William, and both were jailed for three years. The question of the legality of the marriage was so involved that it was cancelled by a special Act of Parliament.

Gibson-Wakefield ultimately carved a successful career as financial adviser to colonial governments in Australia and New Zealand. David Lang was not so lucky. During the trial, he caught a cold and died, aged 71. His business was continued by his son Simon and grandson William.

Mr McColl said: "After William died in 1896, the records passed to his son Simon, who ran a grocery in Gateshead. A solicitor who bought the records recognised their importance and spent years preparing indexes. This is first time such records have been auctioned on the open market."

We are not a
of isolation
EU's Br

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MPs win a better deal on scrutiny of European laws

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BACKBENCH MPs have been promised better information about European Union laws after the row over Commons' scrutiny of documents on the proposed single currency.

MPs from all parties reacted angrily last month to the Government's refusal to allow a full Commons debate on the Brussels documents, which related to preparations for monetary union. They protested that the lack of Commons scrutiny and the poor service given by some government departments had eroded Parliament's influence over European law-making.

New Whitehall guidelines will now make officials adopt a more positive attitude to such documents and pass them more swiftly to MPs. Senior civil servants will attend training courses on how best to keep MPs well informed.

Tony Newton, Leader of the Commons, admitted that there was "a cause for concern" in the way that some Whitehall departments dealt with European legislation. He wrote to the European Legislation Select Committee, which led complaints about scrutiny failures, saying that the committee was "not unreasonable" in refusing to clear EU documents when it did not have the official text.

Although some departments were "alert and skilled"

in dealing with European documents, Mr Newton acknowledged that more work was needed "to ensure that this standard is more consistently achieved by all departments involved in EC business".

MPs praised the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for its work on Europe, but criticised the Foreign Office for failing to keep informed. The committee highlighted "administrative failure", protesting about ministerial letters to them being wrongly addressed, sent by second-class post and even going astray. It said that, although some departments handled EU papers competently, "this is a little like reassuring a motorist that his tyre is only flat at the bottom".

Mr Newton said that the Government took the failings very seriously and would order a review of training and guidance to departments to make sure that standards were "more consistently achieved". He conceded that more needed to be done and said that training seminars would be introduced to improve Whitehall procedures. The 23-strong European Secretary of the Cabinet Office planned to start training civil servants early next year.

However, he rejected a recommendation by the committee to change the Commons

procedure which was at the centre of the dispute over three controversial EU documents on the single currency. Ministers suffered an embarrassing defeat on the issue after they tried to sideline debate on the proposals.

Another of the committee's complaints is that ministers have reached political agreement at meetings with their European counterparts despite there being a parliamentary "scrutiny reserve", preventing the Government making deals on Britain's behalf until MPs have given the plans clearance.

Mr Newton said that the device, which last week restricted Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, at a meeting of EU finance ministers, was sometimes "accidentally" lifted, but he added: "It is important for confidence in the system as a whole that even occasional failures are avoided."

Peers call for royal yacht decision

By JAMES LANDALE

TORY peers attacked the Government last night over its failure to decide on a replacement for the Royal Yacht Britannia. More than ten peers, including several former naval officers, urged ministers to end the debate on the proposal.

The Government announced two years ago that the yacht would be decommissioned at the end of next year after concern about its rising running costs, now £10 million a year. As well as being the Royal Family's cruise ship, Britannia is used to promote British exports and many businesses fear the loss of markets if no replacement is found. Contracts worth more than £2 billion have been signed on board in the past five years.

Various consortiums have put forward proposals for a replacement and in July the Defence Select Committee called for a new yacht to be built in a British shipyard by

2000. But ministers have yet to decide what kind of replacement they want and how it could be funded.

In a short debate yesterday, Lord Ashbourne, a former naval officer and chairman of the all-party Royal Yacht parliamentary group, asked: "Has not the

Government sat on the fence for long enough? The Royal Yacht was a symbol of British prestige and boosted exports. The Government should build a new yacht with a dual role of royal duties and export promotion, with the costs shared between Whitehall departments. Bucking-

ham Palace would pay for the Royal Family's use. Lord Mottilione, a retired naval captain, said a decision was needed urgently so that a new yacht could be ready for the 50th anniversary of the Queen's coronation in 2002. "Every day that is wasted makes it less likely for us to

achieve that." Other peers backing the call included Lord Anherst of Hackney, vice-commander of the Royal Yacht Squadron, Lord Balfour, a former merchant seaman, and Lord Stratton and Mount Royal, vice-chairman of the all-party maritime group.

We are not afraid of isolation in EU, says Brown

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

GORDON BROWN insisted yesterday that a Labour government would not allow a weakening of the British veto in crucial areas of European Union policy.

The Shadow Chancellor said that his party would retain the veto on immigration and asylum, foreign affairs, border controls and taxation, even if it meant Britain being isolated.

Mr Brown, seeking to minimise differences with the Tories on European policy, also repeated Kenneth Clarke's assertion on Monday that countries would not be able to decide whether to join a single currency until 1998, at the earliest.

John Major has tried to highlight policy differences between the two parties by claiming that Labour would give up the veto. But in an interview with BBC Radio 1's Today, Mr Brown said: "I think it has got to be made absolutely clear that this is a myth created by the Conservatives because they want to believe that other parties have problems when it is them who have the problems."

He added: "If we have to stand up to our partners and say they are wrong, we will. Even if we are in a minority of one we will say that."

But Robin Cook, Shadow Foreign Secretary, later admitted that a Labour government would extend qualified majority voting in some areas. He reaffirmed that Labour would be prepared to see a weakening of the veto on social, regional, environmental and industrial policy.

Mr Cook argued that if the European Union were enlarged to become a Europe of 25 or 26 nation states, they could not all be admitted



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Taxpayer faces bigger bill for fewer quangos

BRITAIN has fewer quangos than ever but the cost to the taxpayer has never been higher (Valerie Elliott writes).

The Government is funding 1,194 quangos with £18.2 billion this year compared with £3 billion in 1979. This is the total amount spent on running costs, including salaries, expenses and awards.

But in the past year 96 bodies were wound up including the Nutrition Task Force,

the National Breastfeeding Working Group, the Agricultural Wages Committee, the National Youth Agency and the Citizen's Charter Complaints Task Force.

Ministers have been told they must not create a quango unless they can prove that it offers the best value for money. Yet 63 such bodies were set up last year including a Salmon Taskforce set up by Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, to examine how salmon stocks can be managed into the next century.

Last year ministers made 40,000 appointments to quangos of which 60 per cent were paid posts and 40 per cent unpaid. Quangos employ more than 100,000 staff.

Public Bodies 1996 (Special Educational Needs) Bill committee debate on the effect on the UK of EU rules harmonising VAT and excise rates again.

IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY in the Commons from 9.20am, backbench debates from 10.30am on separation of Europe. From 2.30pm: education and employment questions; debate on European Union; first day; backbench debates on medicinal drugs. In the Lords: debate on role of the Secretary of State for Education (Special Educational Needs) Bill; committee debate on the effect on the UK of EU rules harmonising VAT and excise rates again.

Built to SURVIVE the CRASH of '96 (and '97, '98...)

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN NEW YORK

A FORMER mistress of the late John Kennedy has disclosed that she became pregnant by him in 1963 and, with his agreement, had an abortion.

Judith Exner was then a good-time girl in her mid-20s who had been introduced to the Kennedy "Camelot" by Frank Sinatra. Kennedy used her to convey messages to the Chicago mobster, Sam Giancana. Her affair with the President, which she first discussed openly in the 1970s, lasted for two years. It ended not long after she tearfully telephoned Kennedy at the White House to tell him that she was pregnant. "I said 'Jack, just about the worst thing I can tell you has happened, I'm pregnant,'" she said. "There was this quiet sound, almost a thud."

Mrs Exner, a Roman Catholic like Kennedy, has gone public about the abortion as she struggles with terminal cancer. She told her secret to Liz Smith, the New York gossip writer, whose account of the aborted pregnancy will appear in the next issue of *Vanity Fair* magazine.

"I sat on this secret because I guess I was too ashamed," said Mrs Exner, who at the time of the affair went under her maiden name Judith Campbell. "I never, never intended to tell this story... it was too sordid for a nice Catholic girl like me. But now, before I die, I think the



Judith Exner, the President's mistress, top right, her lover John Kennedy, and Sam Giancana, who helped to find doctor

Camelot should be demystified and the Kennedy legend examined for its reality."

She discovered she was pregnant after she and Kennedy went to bed at the White House in December 1962 — the last time they made love. She said she did not sleep with any other man at that time. When she discovered her

pregnancy late the following month she was "stunned", because she had thought she was not able to carry children. Abortion was not then legal in the United States.

The affair has been well chronicled. Many biographers have examined the relationship, and have dwelt on details such as the time Kennedy,

shortly before he became President, suggested a ménage à trois to his flame. She turned him down.

Mrs Exner told Ms Smith that when she telephoned Kennedy to break the news "his first remark was — and he knew instantly he said the wrong thing — 'What are you going to do?' Then he correct-

ed himself and said, 'I'm sorry. What are we going to do?'" He was "very sweet" to her.

She said that he offered to let her keep the baby but that it had not been possible to do so, not least because she felt she was being watched constantly by the FBI. She had the abortion at Chicago's Grant

Hospital, after Kennedy's suggestion that Giancana might be able to find her a doctor.

She showed Ms Smith the hospital bills for her two-day treatment, which she has kept. "I remember the doctors," she said. "They treated me as if I didn't exist. I was a body... I used to wonder if the doctor's hands were shaking when he thought of the consequences if things didn't go right."

John Davis, a cousin of Jacqueline Kennedy and author of books about the Kennedys, said yesterday: "This news of an abortion is not surprising, given the considerable amount of time Judith Campbell spent with JFK."

Mr Davis added that Mrs Exner's disclosures may damage the Kennedy myth in some quarters of American life. "John Kennedy's name has taken fair battering in the past few years, so it might not affect his reputation everywhere, but there will certainly be dismay in Catholic circles and in the Irish-American constituency."

After the affair, the White House closed ranks against the woman who had for two years been able to win Kennedy's time and affections. Kennedy turned instead to the actress Marilyn Monroe, another affair which the American press overlooked. Dave Powers, a Kennedy aide, when asked later about the woman who had, albeit briefly, carried the President's child, replied that he had never heard of any Campbell — "except the soup".

Ghanaian lobbies UN for top job

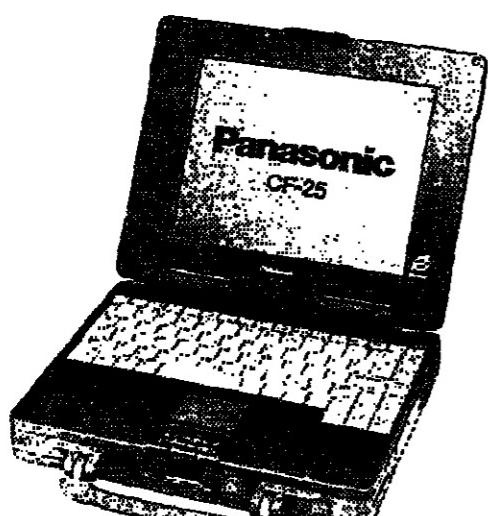
FROM JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK



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Corruption claims tarnish film awards

FROM GILES WHITTELL
IN LOS ANGELES

THE organisation behind Hollywood's second most important awards ceremony has been denounced in *The Washington Post* as a "corrupt little band" whose prizes are all but for sale.

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association, which presents the Golden Globes each January in a ceremony widely seen as a dry run for the Oscars, consists mainly of part-timers in thrall to celebrities and the studios' largesse, according to the *Post*.

Feted by such stars and directors as

Sharon Stone and Rob Reiner, the 88-member association enjoys international television coverage and the power to make and break careers on Golden Globe night. A few members are respected writers on film. Most are not.

Mahfouz Doss, a member who says he writes "about two dozen articles a year" for various Egyptian publications, worked as an engineer until 1978 and has been living off investments since. Tony Pomer runs a marketing company by day but is linked to Czech and Costa Rican publications. Munawar Hosain is a genial Bangladeshi correspondent who earned his living until recently selling

electronic appliances. Members must produce four published articles on film-related topics a year, but applicants from mainstream newspapers are routinely rebuffed. A *Le Monde* correspondent said she has been rejected "four or five times".

Those who are accepted attend screenings, receive gifts and are often flown to lavish junkets at the studios' expense as films are released.

Last year Sharon Stone sent each member a handwritten "thank you" letter after a press conference for her film *Casino*. She was later the surprise winner of a Best Actress Golden Globe.



Sharon Stone and Golden Globe award in January

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Atheist linked to missing money

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX
IN WASHINGTON

AMERICA'S most famous atheist, who disappeared over a year ago, vanished at about the same time as \$625,000 (£380,000) disappeared from two organisations she controlled, it has emerged.

Madalyn Murray O'Hair, whose federal case in 1993 resulted in the removal of prayer and Bible reading from American state schools and made her a household name across the United States, disappeared in August last year from Austin, Texas. Her younger son Jon and her granddaughter Robin, whom she had adopted as her daughter, disappeared at the same time.

Tax statements from two of the five organisations she ran with the assistance of her son Jon to promote atheism and the separation of Church and State, show that assets have gone missing.

The filings from American Atheists Inc and United Secularists of America contradict statements made by atheist officials in the past year that all corporate assets were intact after the Murray O'Hair's disappearance.

The tax returns also disclose a pattern of financial transactions in New Zealand dollars and securities leading to speculation that the missing people have gone to New Zealand.

However, American colleagues have not lost faith in their former heroine. Ellen Johnson, the head of American Atheists Inc, has dismissed suggestions that the trio absconded illegally with the money, saying that she believes they are the victims of foul play.

This idea that Madalyn is perhaps sitting on a beach somewhere drinking a *Mai Tai* is so stupid as to be insulting," she has been reported as saying. "These are the most decent, honest people I have ever known in my life," she has added. "It is all extremely sad."

In September, Bill Murray, Ms Murray O'Hair's estranged older son, together with Robin's father, who is the publisher of a conservative Christian newsletter, filed a "missing persons report", but Austin detectives say that they have made no progress in the case.

Nato countdown starts for entry of East Europeans

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN BRUSSELS

THE Nato alliance yesterday started the countdown to the entry of former Soviet bloc states, promising Moscow it would not deploy nuclear forces in them but also making clear that Russian objections would not halt the expansion.

Against the background of a sharp US-French dispute over a revamped Nato command, alliance foreign ministers fixed next July 8 for a Madrid summit that will invite the first Central European states to join, with entry planned for 1999. The first former Warsaw Pact members to be admitted are expected to be Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic, with Romania and Slovakia as possible candidates from the other eight that have applied.

The decision, which in effect marks a point of no return in the transformation of the old Cold War alliance, was accompanied by new ventures to Russia to drop its fierce resistance to Nato's move eastwards. These included a pledge not to station nuclear forces in the new member states — a largely symbolic gesture since Nato's nuclear umbrella is provided by sea-borne weapons.

Nato also wants to involve Russia more closely in Euro-

paean security and is prepared to give it veto-power over some joint operations, such as peacekeeping. Russia's successful participation in the Bosnian peace force, re-launched this week as SFOR — Stability Force — is hailed as the model for a future East-West military partnership.

The Americans, also worried about the future of those Eastern European states that will not be given membership tickets, want to create a North Atlantic Co-operation Council as a bridge to non-members.

While Warsaw, Budapest and Prague cheered yesterday's move, the Kremlin reiterated its hostility. Yevgeni Primakov, its Foreign Minister, met Warren Christopher, the retiring US Secretary of State, and other ministers from the 16-member alliance.

"Russia's position on this issue remains firm and rather rough," said Sergei Yashinetsky, spokesman for President Yeltsin. It was fantasy to suggest Russia was resigned to Nato expansion.

Senior British officials said the Russians were acquiescing but were eager not to give any public acceptance that Nato's enlargement was inevitable.

Russian diplomats, who fear the Clinton Administra-

tion is toughening its line, are worried by the appointment of the Czech-born Madeleine Albright as Secretary of State in succession to Mr Christopher. "She's a very hard lady," said a Russian official. "We don't forget she was the protégée of Zbigniew Brzezinski."

Mr Brzezinski, National Security Adviser to President Carter, was the Kremlin's *beloved* in the late 1970s.

Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, and Hervé de Charette, the French Foreign Affairs Minister, called for intense efforts to satisfy the Kremlin's anxieties and produce a joint charter before the Madrid summit.

In the increasingly acrimonious dispute between Paris and Washington over the revamping of Nato's command structure, France is insisting that America gives up Nato's Naples-based Southern command to a European officer.

The Americans, who have always held the post, refuse on the ground that it comes with command of the Sixth Fleet, a big instrument of US power in the Mediterranean and Middle East.

M. de Charette yesterday deplored the way that "the whole process of Nato reform" seems to be grinding to a halt over the public quarrel.

THE Nato alliance yesterday condemned President Milosevic of Serbia for annulling the result of local elections which favoured the opposition and called on him to reverse the decision.

"We are dismayed that the Serbian authorities have ignored the calls of the international community to respect internationally recognised dem-

ocratic principles," Nato foreign ministers said. "We urge the Serbian Government to respect the democratic wishes of the people and reverse this decision."

The statement was reinforced by tough language from Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, who said: "The people of Serbia deserve what their neighbours in central Europe have: clean elections, a free press, a normal market economy." If President Milosevic "seeks to rule Serbia as an unreformed dictatorship,

it will only increase his isolation and the suffering of his people."

Hervé de Charette, the French Foreign Minister, added France's voice to the chorus, saying the alliance must make plain to Serbian leaders that they were breaching human rights by stalling opposition.

In Belgrade, however, the Yugoslav Federal Court announced that it would not reinstate the opposition victory in last month's elections. The ruling, which followed three weeks of

protests in Belgrade make the traditional three-finger Serb Orthodox gesture in demonstrations against the Milosevic administration

hopes of overturning the election outcome by strictly legal means.

However, leaders from Zajedno, the opposition coalition, vowed to keep up the pressure and organised a boycott of yesterday's parliamentary session, the first since last month's contested election.

While the Belgrade protests show no signs of letting up, their unprecedented momentum has not grown into a national movement. Demonstrators consist mainly of students and urban sympathisers of Zajedno.

Alliance attacks Milosevic over annulled election

BY CHARLES BRENNER
AND STACY SULLIVAN
IN BELGRADE

THE Nato alliance yesterday condemned President Milosevic of Serbia for annulling the result of local elections which favoured the opposition and called on him to reverse the decision.

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Belgian held in lost girl case

BY CHARLES BRENNER

POLICE investigating the paedophile murders of Belgian children yesterday arrested a Brussels man on charges of involvement in the disappearance of a nine-year-old girl in 1992.

Jacques Génévois was taken into custody on the orders of prosecutors investigating the kidnapping of Loubna Benaisa, a Moroccan-born girl who went missing in the

Brussels district of Ixelles. Her disappearance has been widely linked to the activities of Marc Dutroux, the confessed paedophile kidnapper.

Mr Génévois was held soon after the disappearance but was released on providing an alibi, despite the discovery of blood and hair in his car.

Investigators are now seeking to match samples taken at the time with blood from the Benaisa family. Belgian media have reported that wit-

nesses identified Mr Génévois as an habitué of the same haunts as Jean-Marc Nihoul, a Brussels businessman who has been charged with complicity in the Dutroux case.

Four girls' bodies were found last summer buried under houses owned by Mr Dutroux, but police have yet to find any trace of Loubna.

Her disappearance is one of several, still unexplained, with which Mr Dutroux is suspected to have been connected.

Van Gogh dilemma for Paris

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN PARIS

THE French Government was under intense pressure last night to buy an oil painting attributed to Vincent van Gogh, despite doubts about its authenticity.

The state has already paid £145 million (£165 million) to keep *Jardin d'Avrins* in the country after a series of costly and humiliating lawsuits. The painting, once valued at £35

million and considered by many to be the last work painted by Van Gogh before he killed himself in 1890, was classified as a national treasure in 1989 and its owner was banned from selling it outside France. *Jardin d'Avrins* was sold in Paris three years later for £55 million, less than a sixth of its estimated sale price in London or New York.

The seller, Jacques Walter, subsequently sued the state, claiming he had been de-

*Jardin d'Avrins*: not to be sold outside France

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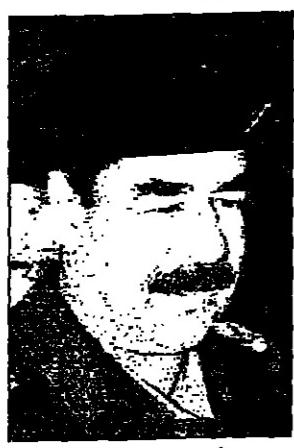
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Iraqis celebrate end of embargo as Saddam opens oil lifeline to West



Saddam yesterday

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU
IN NICOSIA

A TRIUMPHANT President Saddam Hussein yesterday pressed a button that started Iraqi oil flowing to world markets for the first time since his forces invaded Kuwait six years ago. As his down-trodden people celebrated, the state-run media presented the event as a personal victory for the Iraqi leader and heralded it as the beginning of the end of the overall embargo.

The deal, first signed last May, enables Iraq to sell \$2 billion (£1.22 billion) oil over six months to buy food and medicine under the strict

supervision of United Nations monitors deployed to ensure the proceeds are shared evenly among Iraq's 20 million people.

Iraqi officials have made it clear that Saddam, buoyed by the deal and his intervention in the Kurdish "safe area" last August which resulted in the collapse of a CIA-backed operation to topple him, will now try to woo Washington. If that strategy fails and he loses all hope of ending the wider sanctions, the unpredictable leader could lash out again. Barzan al-Takriti, his half-brother, has said.

President Saddam Hussein does not walk down the same road twice, so if things get stuck no one

will be able to guess where he will come from and where the next strike will be," Mr al-Takriti told the London-based *al Hayat* newspaper in a recent interview.

Privately, Iraqi officials say any hopes that Baghdad's charm offensive would work were dashed by President Clinton's decision to name Madeleine Albright, his hawkish UN Ambassador, as Secretary of State. She has made it clear she views Saddam as a dictator who must not be appeased.

Saddam's previously announced decision personally to start Iraqi oil flowing again from the northern oil city of Kirkuk through a pipeline to Turkey's

Mediterranean coast was trumpeted in an urgent telegram by the Iraqi News Agency. "President Saddam Hussein pressed the button in Kirkuk's Number One pumping station at 11.25 Baghdad time (08.25 GMT), declaring the return of Iraqi oil to the international market."

Soon afterwards, Turkey's state-owned refinery, Tupras, said it had signed a contract with Iraq to buy 75,000 barrels a day of the new exports. Iraqi officials said that oil from Iraq's southern terminal of Mina al-Bakr, on the Gulf, would start to flow on Friday or Saturday.

Unicef estimated in October that 4,500 children under the age of five

were dying each month from hunger and disease. When the deal was given the final go-ahead on Monday, the UN Security Council's president, Francesco Paolo Fulci of Italy, called it "the largest humanitarian operation ever launched by the United Nations". He added: "More than 20 million innocent Iraqi civilians will be finally saved from starvation and untold suffering."

It could be several weeks before the oil money arrives, but Iraqis have already been feeling the benefits of lower food prices and a stronger currency, which followed confirmation of the deal.

While Iraqis welcomed the UN

lifeline, many said it was not enough and called for an end to the embargo, which they insisted had failed in its undeclared aim of ousting Saddam. Washington has insisted that the oil-for-food deal is a purely humanitarian affair and that wider sanctions will remain until Iraq comes clean on its weapons programmes. American officials say this is most unlikely while Saddam remains in power.

■ Geneva: Victims of Iraq's 1991 invasion of Kuwait could start receiving the first instalments of \$5 billion in compensation as early as January now that Iraqi oil sales have resumed, a UN official said. (AP)

Mandela puts seal on new freedom at Sharpeville

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN SHARPEVILLE

PRESIDENT MANDELA of South Africa yesterday signed into law the post-apartheid Constitution at a moving ceremony in Sharpeville that drew a symbolic line under the country's troubled past.

Standing in the township's football stadium, Mr Mandela called on the crowd and millions watching the ceremony on television to join hands "for peace and prosperity" and out of respect for those who died to bring about the freedoms enshrined in the new Constitution. He said to cheers: "Today we humbly pay tribute to them in a special way. This is a monument to their heroism."

It was a ceremony rich with symbolism, from the army helicopters bearing the new South African flag to the location itself. On a dusty street near the stadium in 1960, police shot dead 69 people during a peaceful protest that engraved Sharpeville on the international conscience. In nearby Vereeniging, south of Johannesburg, a treaty signed between the Boers and the British in 1902 disenfranchised the blacks.

Flanked by representatives from the former ruling National Party and other political parties, Cyril Ramaphosa, the chief constitutional negotiator, said Vereeniging and Sharpeville were "powerful symbols"

of oppression. He hailed the new Constitution as a "break with the past". Referring to the arrival of the first European settlers in the 17th century, he added: "It is the end of 344 years of struggle for national unity and lasting peace."

The signing of the Constitution formally completed a process begun during talks to end apartheid. The document was written over two years in the Constitutional Assembly, comprising both Houses of Parliament, and was certified by the Constitutional Court last week. Its Bill of Rights and provisions for a host of human rights bodies guarantees to protect the population from abuses.

More than two million South Africans made submissions to the Constitutional Court accepted the final draft last week after forcing negotiators in September to look again at certain sections. It had rejected the proposed blueprint for permanent democracy because it found fault with the reduction of provincial powers, the failure to entrench fundamental rights and lack of protection for human rights watchdogs. The amendments made by negotiators and accepted by the court provide the provinces with a greater say in making legislation and further guarantees for the independence of watchdogs.

Cape Town: One of apartheid's most notorious killer policemen was pardoned yesterday in a decision likely to test the limits of national reconciliation. Brian Mitchell, serving 30 years for murdering 11 people in 1988, was freed by Archbishop Desmond Tutu's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. (Reuters)

Tutu frees policeman



President Mandela and Cyril Ramaphosa at the ceremony in Sharpeville yesterday

Bolger survives as maverick ignores his voters' wishes

FROM PATRICK SMELLIE IN WELLINGTON

IF supporters of New Zealand's experiment with proportional representation expected to produce more accountable politics, they will be sorely disappointed by the coalition Government which emerged yesterday.

By extending the life of the six-year-old National Party Government, the New Zealand First party of Winston Peters has in effect betrayed its supporters.

The deal leaves Jim Bolger as Prime Minister with control of 61 of the 126 seats in New Zealand's parliament and informal support from another eight MPs.

Mr Peters has built his career on attacking the National Party, abandoning it in 1993 over his opposition to economic policies which have delivered the country low inflation, huge budget surpluses, and growth averaging more than 4 per cent a year.

Now the maverick has embraced the Nationalists and, as the coalition's new Treasurer, those policies as well. He acknowledged as much yesterday. "New Zealand First has long believed that New Zea-

landers have had enough of radical change — be it to the right or to the left — and want to plan their futures with a degree of certainty and stability," he said.

New Zealand's recent economic gains are probably intact. The test for both the new, less decisive political environment and for Mr Peters will be whether it is possible to build on those gains. The Nationalists won 44 seats in the election, the first under a proportional representation system which produced an unprecedented eight-week political hiatus while New Zealand First conducted coalition talks with both the Nationalists and the Labour Party.

Yesterday's decision ignores the wishes of New Zealand First supporters, two thirds of whom told pollsters they wanted a coalition with Labour.

There will be supporters who will be very disappointed by our decision today," Mr Peters acknowledged. "This has been the most difficult and complex decision that I have ever been involved in."

FBI reward for bomber

New York: The FBI has offered a \$500,000 (£300,000) reward for information leading to the person who planted the bomb that went off during the Atlanta Olympics (Quentin Letts writes). It has also released a tape-recording of a man telephoning a warning.

The bomb exploded in Atlanta's Centennial Park on July 27, killing two people and injuring many more. The FBI also urged Olympics spectators to check their videotapes in case they had pictures of the bomber.

NBC has agreed an undisclosed settlement with Richard Jewell, once the FBI's chief suspect, who threatened to sue over the network's television coverage.

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OVERSEAS NEWS 13

Howard distances Britain from EU police integration

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

BRITAIN distanced itself yesterday from the newly launched scheme of Helmut Kohl and Jacques Chirac for fast-track European integration in police matters. Announcing the British ratification of the European convention, Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, made plain that he would resist any attempt to turn the Hague-based unit into a kind of European FBI.

Europol, he said in Bonn after talks with Manfred Kanther, the Interior Minister, would "collect and analyse information from member states and use the information to help the law enforcement agency of those states". By contrast, Herr Kohl, the German Chancellor, said at an Franco-German summit on Monday that he wanted to move quickly towards establishing Europol as "an effective police authority with operational powers". Mr Howard, without directly challenging Herr Kohl, set out Britain's view of Europol limits: "There should be no power to investigate or arrest people in other member states."

The French and German leaders indicated that they want to extend the principle of

"flexitronics" — allowing fast integrators to steam ahead without those unwilling or unable to keep up — from foreign policy to home and police affairs. Mr Howard, coolly but firmly, rejected that idea and concentrated on the need for common policing policies rather than for European federal institutions. In particular, Mr Howard said that he wanted to abolish three European steering groups on immigration, policing and judicial affairs which he regarded as nothing more than "an added layer of bureaucracy in Brussels". Co-operation on issues from immigration and asylum to criminal sentencing should be carried out at an inter-governmental level rather than through Brussels or as part of an integrated European polity.

The contrast with the French and German leaders could not have been more stark. In Monday's open letter to the Irish presidency, Herr Kohl and President Chirac said: "The European Union treaty's provisions for co-operation in justice and home affairs are not sufficient" to combat international crime.

Mr Howard, though, said that he agreed with Herr



Mira Nair has asked critics to leave the film alone until the appeals procedure is over

Indian film of Kama Sutra alarms censors

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

A SEX-PACKED film about love, *Kama Sutra*, is being studied by India's highest film censorship tribunal after lower-level censors savaged scenes of nudity and explicit love-making. The land of the world's most famous sex book is not ready to see the volume acted out on screen.

The appeals tribunal is due to rule soon. Ms Nair has shown the film abroad, perhaps in the hope that it would receive the sort of acclaim given to *Bandit Queen*, the Bombay-based Hindi film industry. It is directed by Mira Nair, the director who made *Mississippi Masala* and *Salaam Bombay*.

The actresses include Rekha, who alone would draw half of India to see her in such a film. Critics have responded to an appeal by Ms Nair not to review the film or give it widespread publicity until the appeals process is complete.

Those who have seen it at a private showing are divided. "Pornographic from beginning to end," one said. Sunil Sethi, a commentator and columnist, disagreed. "It is

sexually explicit, but it would be silly to expect anything to do with the *Kama Sutra* not to be. It is not distasteful or vulgar, although there is not much of a story and the dialogue is excruciating."

The film like it has been made before in India and its release uncut would shake the foundations of "Bollywood", the Bombay-based Hindi film industry. It is directed by Mira Nair, the director who made *Mississippi Masala* and *Salaam Bombay*.

Kama Sutra stands little chance of being shown in its entirety in India, despite the esteem in which Ms Nair is held. "It is rather like those stylised Japanese films that are very explicit but which you could not call pornographic," Mr Sethi said. "It has bare breasts and side views of naked women that show everything. The love-making is graphic, but not in an ugly way. I saw nothing objectionable in it."

Women taking bulls by the horns

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN
IN MADRID



Sánchez inspiration to hundreds of women

SPAIN'S premier bullfighting school has been flooded with applications from women this year in what some observers are calling "the Cristina Sánchez phenomenon".

Inspired by Señorita Sánchez, who in May became the first female matador, hundreds of women have sought entry to Madrid's Escuela de Tauromáquia.

The school is Señorita Sánchez's alma mater, and standards are exacting. Only 12 women were admitted this week in an intake of nearly 200. But that is still a six-fold increase over last year. "There will be more next year, many more," a trainer said yesterday. "These girls are here to stay and the men are getting used to them. And so are the bulls."

Nicolas Barón, the school's director, says that women

have "exactly the same ability as men and exactly the same potential to be great bullfighters". He said: "Cristina has been a very positive influence. She has all the attributes of a first-class bullfighter — courage, poise, technique, art."

But Joaquín Vidal, the country's leading bullfighting critic, has often commented on Señorita Sánchez's lack of strength, demonstrated last season by her inability to finish off a bull cleanly at the end of a technically accomplished *toreo* (fight).

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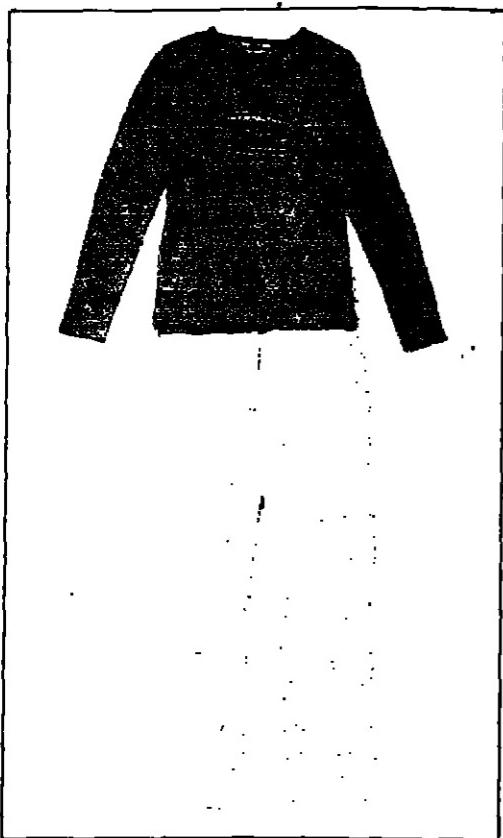
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Students discover a degree of flair



Karen Ross-Smith chose a pair of beige stretch boot-cut jeans, £49.99, and a cobalt long-sleeved t-shirt, £19.99, both by French Connection



Tamara Barnett chose a stone mini-skirt, £34, and an orange belted jumper, £48, both by Jigsaw, 126-127 New Bond Street, London W1



Claire Coleman chose black stretch trousers, £50, and a white stretch poplin shirt, £50, both by French Connection, 99 Long Acre, London WC2

It is 11 on a foggy morning outside King's College, Cambridge, and students are cycling past in a drab collection of tracksuits, fading jeans, zip-up fleece jackets and waxed jackets.

What on earth is going on? I was here from 1987 to 1990 and spent a good deal of time malingering on this same wall, and to be frank, students were wearing the same thing then. I feel like a character from *Groundhog Day*. Time just hasn't moved on.

And we had an excuse. It was the late Eighties, and student fashion was either of the right-on, all black, second-hand kind, or it was aspirational. Sometimes it was a bit of both (I was in awe of a friend who owned a Body Map dress, bought for her by her mother). Many students were obsessed with black-tie events, donning the full kit even though the alcohol was

Style Editor Grace Bradberry returns to her alma mater to see how Cambridge students dress now and to ask them how they would spend £100

served up in a plastic bucket. Many student wardrobes had split personalities: fading "Indie" T-shirts hung next to blue blazers and chinos. Laura Ashley ballgowns with big bows next to shapeless grey leggings. If dress is an indicator of character, as some claim, then we were a mixed-up bunch. On only a few points is my conscience clear — I never owned a waxed jacket, I never wore outsize rugby shirts to curry favour with the men, and I never, ever, tucked jeans into black boots.

The ethnic craze was also in full swing, though a cursory glance around the marketplace revealed that that hasn't changed. We weren't as label obsessed as other sub-sections of society at the time — but among the many things I learnt as an undergraduate was that Joseph was a highly desirable designer shop.

But the one thing that really defined Cambridge fashion, then as now, was the weather. Even science students, who should know better, believe it is the coldest place on earth. Ice forms on the inside of windows, freezing fog hangs permanently over the river. Like Sir Randolph Fiennes, undergraduates take a survivalist attitude to clothes, which explains why even the most fashion-conscious haven't gone for this season's lean, mean silhouette.

Take Claire Coleman, a 19-year-old linguist at Queens' College. By late November,

she was wearing five tops. "People warned me about the weather here, but I wouldn't listen. It's actually colder here than the ski resort where I worked in my year off."

The top layer is a multi-coloured South American jacket bought in a shop in Guildford for £60. "But you can get them on the market here." Underneath that, there's a Gap sweatshirt, a rugby shirt, and an ageing fleece. Finally, there's a T-shirt from a Paul Weller concert buried at the bottom. So the top half alone adds up to more than £100, even before you get down to Claire's second-hand Levi's and Miss Selfridge trainers. She'd like to wear cubby clothes but fears hypothermia.

It's not just the cold that cramps people's style. Cambridge remains the spiritual home of young fogies. In my time there was a bizarre character who spent his free time parading round Trinity Great Court in tweed breeches and a hunting jacket. He also rode a tricycle. Other students wore cravats.

On the evidence of a day

spent in the city, things have improved. But not that much.

"Cambridge is quite traditional," says Jess Boyde, 21, a social anthropology student at Downing College. "My clothes have become a bit more theatrical since I arrived, but that's all you can say. And I don't go to many black-tie events — they're usually linked to sports and drinking clubs."

Jess is heavily into fur this season, as are most of the designers. But her look came cut-price — the grey fur hat cost a mere £12 in Accessorize, while the coat was £15 from a market stall. She bought the white shirt from Miss Selfridge five years ago, and the pinstripe turn-ups came from Oxfam for £8. The shoes are the most expensive item — they cost £30 from Office.

But lack of funds has not stopped some students from acquiring a frighteningly advanced fashion philosophy. "It's not worth buying catwalk cast-offs from high street stores. If you want designer stuff, then you should buy the original, because ironically it's the designer things which last," says Tamara Barnett, 19, an English student at King's.

"I go to places like Jigsaw to get staples that will go with lots of things and will wear well." Her combat pants (£30), and fake fur jacket (£50) come from Boxfresh in Covent Garden; the trainers from



Jess Boyde: "My clothes have become a bit more theatrical, but that's all you can say"



Im m

What men

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Karen Ross-Smith: trainers

Sneaker Stadium in New York.

The more fashion-conscious students pick up on a mix of catwalk trends and street style. "You have to go to London to see what's happening," says Karen Ross-Smith, a 20-year-old social psychology student. "I bought these trainers for £60 in Office. I've also bought a pair of lime green and brown boggie trousers from Oasis, for £30."

The last word goes to Petra Jones, a 20-year-old Newham student, who apologises for the extravagance of her black velvet coat from Monsoon (£100 in a sale). "I'd never heard of all the designer names until I came to Cambridge," she says.

Photographs by MICHAEL POWELL



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Parting of the ways: Diana, Princess of Wales, with her not-so-new style and Rod Stewart, who, after 20 years of spiky locks, has changed his look.

Immortal hair

To enter the Hair Hall of Fame, you need a style so personal it transcends fashion, says Lowri Turner

Never has so much fuss been made of a wonky parting. Diana, Princess of Wales, has unveiled a new hairstyle, the principal feature of which is a zigzag parting. Immediately, the great and the good of the crimping world have stepped forward to praise her for being on the cutting edge of coiffery. But look closely. How different is the Princess's "new" look from all the others she has modelled over the years? A certain *au courant* sleekness and that curious parting aside, it is barely altered. In truth, it is just the most recent in a long line of "new" royal hairstyles that never were.

In adopting this, her latest, not-so-new hairstyle, the Princess has confirmed her halflawed place in the Immortal Hair Hall of Fame. Holders of this glittering honour have a style so personal it transcends cultish notions of "in" or "out". Not that it is easy to remain aloof from the ebb and flow of contemporary style. It requires guts, determination, a hairdresser you trust and a sharp eye kept on the mirror. A certain strength of character and stridency of opinion come in jolly handy.

There can be few more witheringly dismissive of any



Lost locks: Farrah Fawcett

Apart from a love of back-combing, what all these women share is fame. And, indeed, were they not quite so well-known, their timewarp tresses might get them some strange looks at the checkout at Tesco. The line between being an icon of unchanging style and looking as if you are living in another decade is a fine one.

In truth, there are two types of Immortal Hair wearer. Those who actively seek inclu-

sion in the Hair Hall of Fame and those who have it thrust upon them. Twiggy's Vidal Sassoon wedge-cut sums up the geometric mid-Sixties. She wore it for only a short time, yet we will forever associate her with it. Farrah Fawcett is just as imprisoned by her Charlie's Angels flicks, despite having peeled them back almost 20 years ago. Will Jennifer Anniston, the *Friends* actress whose life and flip hairdo has taken the world's salons by storm, feel a similar need to destroy her own creation?

One who has taken the plunge is Rod Stewart. Part rock god, part cocktail, after 20 years of spiky locks, Stewart now has a close crop. His young wife, the model Rachel Hunter, is said to have loathed the old look. And as Kieran Tomes, from *GQ*, says: "The woman often has quite a lot to do with it when a bloke changes his hair."

"Men get stuck because they think they look attractive, or because it makes them feel young," explains Newby Hands, the health and beauty director of *Harpers & Queen*.

The hairdresser Trevor Sorbie is blunter still. "Men tend to cling to the style of their youth because that was when they probably had the most pulling power," he says. Mick Jagger, Brian May, of Queen, Status Quo's Francis Rossi and the nightclub owner Peter Stringfellow all come to mind. "Very few fashionable hairstyles are flattering," warns Newby Hands. The supermodel Helena Christensen's new pudding-bowl style is proof of that. Instead, the celebrity snapper Nicky Clark advises "evolution". Clark has recently cut his own trademark long curls. "There comes a point when you have to move on," he explains.

This is a sentiment with which Julie Goodyear, a former landlady of the Rovers Return in *Coronation Street*, might concur. There was a point, a few years back, when her on-screen beauty almost deserved separate billing in the *Radio Times*.

Then scriptwriters had a brainwave — a fire at the Rovers. Nothing less than a full-scale inferno could have excused the sight of *Bette* in her nightie, without her beehive. It was never to reappear, except in the memory of viewers of course, where it remains, well, immortal.

The truth under that healthy skin

Beneath all its crackpot philosophising about the joys of playing badminton in the buff, *Health & Efficiency* was really a prototype for porn mags

I once told a friend that a magazine called *Homes and Ideas* had asked to photograph my kitchen. "Great idea," he said, "a magazine devoted to real estate and philosophy." On that basis, *Health & Efficiency* should have been the magazine of the age after all, the whole of society now seems convulsed with either a pseudo-medical, morally preening narcissism or scorched-earth economising.

its creators or contributors. I am perfectly willing to believe that any number of people feel that nakedness makes its own politico-cultural point. But that point can only make sense in a society where it is considered the norm to be clothed. We still live in that society, but these days we take rather a different view of nakedness.

When *Health & Efficiency* started, there was something shameful about nudity. And that carried on (and still does for some): my maternal grandmother, who for some reason was educated in part at a convent, told me of having (like the Antonia White character in *Frost in May*) to take baths while wearing a cover-all.

as to describe the magazine itself as the culprit, but it is part of the pornography industry. You couldn't have what exists now without there having been that then. I don't use that to condemn the magazine. There is little point taking the sadder-but-wiser new-liberal stance on this. You know the line we thought it was all innocent, but it's led us to perdition or as near as damnit. Of all the ills of society, nakedness is most certainly the least. The only strange thing is that for all our modern openness about the body, its functions and appetencies, we continue to snigger about it. I suppose that shows how little influence pornography has actually had.

Still, we wouldn't be human if we weren't just a little hypocritical. Seeing the cover of last week's *Time Out*, which promised "Weird Sex ... our sensational survey and photo gallery reveal all", one can see why people get sentimental about a time when *Health & Efficiency* ran pictures of stout people letting it all hang out while playing badminton as if they had never noticed they weren't wearing any clothes.

Nigella Lawson

shift. But even if modesty remains in the majority, the cultural climate has shewed.

Not everyone may agree to be a Good Thing, but when daily papers carry pictures of topless women (more invidiously influential, if one takes a dim view of increasing acreages of flesh on show, than whatever goes on between the covers of the porn mags), then there is bound to be less interest in a magazine which tries to make us come over all sniggery about stark nakedness in the first place.

That might convince some people, but it doesn't convince me. I know that the magazine — or so it claimed — strove to educate, never titillate. I understand that its purpose ostensibly was to promote the ends of naturism, a dotty, if not spurious movement, devoted to spending as much time as possible without any clothes on, in the belief that the ills of society could be redressed if the fig leaf Adam and Eve adopted in shame were ripped off with pride. But underneath all the crackpot philosophising, *Health & Efficiency* was never anything but *Fiesta* in embryonic form.

This is a sentiment with which Julie Goodyear, a former landlady of the Rovers Return in *Coronation Street*, might concur. There was a point, a few years back, when her on-screen beauty almost deserved separate billing in the *Radio Times*.

Then scriptwriters had a

brainwave — a fire at the Rovers. Nothing less than a full-scale inferno could have excused the sight of *Bette* in her nightie, without her beehive. It was never to reappear, except in the memory of viewers of course, where it remains, well, immortal.

I am willing to believe that wasn't the aim of either

T he truth is, we find such images funny now. But if we didn't see that they were intended to be naughty, we wouldn't laugh. And that is crucial. In other words, it is not quite the case that, as one rueful commentator has it, that *Health & Efficiency* has fallen victim to today's salacious moral climate". Perhaps I wouldn't go so far.

Besides, when illegitimacy was held to be a shame that no child was thought to deserve bearing, children would often find out years later that the woman they thought was their mother was, all along, their grandmother. I don't say it must have been easy, though the children in question always claim it made them feel doubly loved.

In Caitlin's case, it will simply be the other way around.

What men really want for Christmas

Don't waste your money on 'indispensable' tools or trinkets from a time-warp. Buy him the best, says Joseph Connolly, and he will love you forever

IN COMMON with proper-size Kleenex, this Christmas gift guide is for men — and women will be eternally grateful. It is a guide to attitude: get into the right frame of mind, study the examples, and you will understand what men really want.

First lesson: never buy anything described as "perfected for the man in your life" or anything in a "Men's Gifts"

section. They will be straight out of a Fifites time warp when men apparently appreciated giant tubs of Brylcreem, chamois leathers, hip flasks and Black & Decker's. If so tell the retailer just what he can do with his socket set, and steer clear of anything billed as "the ultimate", or that threatens to "organise" a man or be his "male".

Don't buy anything that looks like something else no right-minded man will be pleased if the magnum of bordeaux he unwraps turns out to be a pepper mill. And avoid anything with Santa on it. Also out is anything self-consciously got up as a gift. A sweet little tin attaché case

containing four quarter-bottles of champagne is a real pain in the neck. When do you open the piddly things? And what do you do with the tin? Most fancy tins and boxes are out — except the wooden case around a dozen claret, or the label-covered wooden box around 25 Monte Cristos.

Practical things are a no-no so tell the retailer just what he can do with his socket set, and steer clear of anything billed as "the ultimate", or that threatens to "organise" a man or be his "male".

In Hilditch & Key, you will find the best shirts in the world; he will know the shirt is the best and will love you and thank you for it. Buy a tie, but not an "amusing" one — clowns and pink elephants were sort of fun for a short

bottle with what men really want, and so are a clutch of shops comfortably nearby. Also there are decent places to eat and drink — such as the Oak Room in the Meridian Hotel, Piccadilly, which offers gift vouchers for its seven-course Menu Gourmand: buy two at £46 apiece and he will thank you, because good food and drink (along with your company) are one of the things men really want.

In Bollinger, beluga and you time (it was a Tuesday). John Lobb has the best ready-made shoes in the world — pricey (£300-£400) but he will thank you for 15 years as they go on looking better and better.

What about a truckle of stilton from Paxton & Whitfield? A great big mouldy cylinder of the best in the world, with maybe a ladle to gouge it. Getting the idea? In

Floris, a large wooden tub of shaving cream and a badger brush is cool. At Dunhill you go for a lighter (the best), Havanas, a Montblanc Meisterstück pen or one of their excellent watches. With a fine watch, he will thank you every minute, for the rest of his life.

Go to Quaglino's round the corner and have a glass of champagne you've earned it. Do not buy the metal "Q" ashtray because he doesn't want it. Hatchard's for lots of glossy books but avoid the book that's just "perfect" for him, because he's already bought it, hasn't he? And what for the man who has absolutely everything? More Beluga and Bollinger (Fortnum's) are always acceptable, and form a delightful accompaniment to your own good and lovely self, because women, of course, are always high on the list of what men really want.

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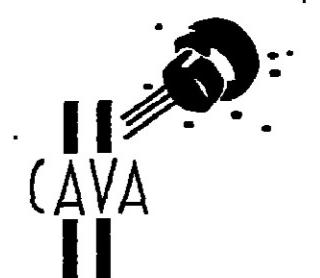
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THE MINISTRY SYNDROME

Pesticide, paperwork and prevarication

More than six years after 50,000 British troops were sent to evict Saddam Hussein from Kuwait, and more than two years since questions were first asked in the House of Commons, Nicholas Soames, Armed Forces Minister, has confirmed that Parliament was seriously misled about the use of pesticides in Saudi Arabia. For most of this period, the suggestion that so-called Gulf War syndrome might have been triggered by the excessive use of organophosphate chemicals was dismissed because official records showed minimal quantities of those substances had been sent with our soldiers.

It now transpires that vast amounts of the material were acquired locally and deployed in abundance. Although any link between this discovery and the syndrome remains, for the moment, unproven, two matters are evident. First, that this practice was not conducive to the general good health of the Army. Secondly, that an appalling catalogue of blunders led ministers consistently to offer answers to their colleagues that were untrue. Neither is ever acceptable.

In his statement Mr Soames at least displayed all due humility. His pledge that the failures within the Ministry of Defence would be fully investigated, and that those civil servants responsible would be disciplined, is quite proper and must be met. Some external scrutiny is also needed for confidence to be restored. The House of Commons Select Committee on Defence, which has generally performed in a professional and bipartisan fashion, should feel no qualms in calling politicians, officials, and the military top brass before it and demanding explanations.

That such materials were being liberally used seems to have been no secret to those serving in the desert. That it escaped their

superiors, because of "inadequate accounting procedures" and apparent "failures in communications" is little short of a disgrace. The ministers involved appear to have acted honourably enough, but the whole affair reflects badly on all concerned.

Mr Soames' further announcement that two epidemiological studies into the possible effect of these organophosphates will now take place is also overdue. It has been a year since the principle of such an inquiry was accepted. It has taken too long to decide upon the details of this research. The families of the 1,100 veterans who have experienced sickness since 1991, and who have often been treated brusquely by officials, are entitled to a fully funded and rigorous examination of this discovery. The minister's comments that he would continue to co-operate as closely as possible with the Pentagon on these questions is to be welcomed. Whether or not such concerns are justified, accusations that Gulf War syndrome has not been followed with proper attention are bound to increase in the light of what Mr Soames conceded yesterday. They cannot be permitted to persist. The Ministry of Defence has promised the most open approach possible. It must now deliver.

At this stage incompetence rather than conspiracy or cover-up looks the most likely explanation. That is not much compensation for those affected. Belated acknowledgement and apology is better than none at all but events can hardly be allowed to rest there. Whether there is a syndrome that can be traced directly to the Gulf conflict is obviously important but now only part of the issue. Parliament must fully satisfy itself that much wider irregularities have not been masked by the same procedures that prompted the Soames statement.

HEAD AND HEART

Meanwhile over the Channel...

Today the House of Commons holds its European debate. Tomorrow finance ministers make a new attempt to agree the single currency's "stability pact". This weekend comes the EU summit itself. Sounds and furies will fill the corridors. But step back for a moment. What does Britain's debate about monetary union and the future of Europe tell us about the real relations between this country and its neighbours?

At every point, it seems, the differences overwhelm the ties that bind. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, for example, is taken by both his friends and his enemies to be the Cabinet minister most sympathetic to the single currency. Yet he tells a parliamentary committee this week that a delay in starting monetary union is very probable and that there is a 40 per cent chance that it will not happen at all. Any senior German politician who speculated so openly on the chances of delay and failure would be taken for a fool determined to damage himself.

There has been debate across the Channel over monetary union. But it has been of a quite different character from the argument here. Helmut Kohl's moves towards the launch of the euro have been protected by the taboo in his country against open dissent. German opposition must be mounted in covert ways. Debate in and between France and Germany does not turn on the aim of the single currency but on the means to make it work.

The tension over the stability pact, which Herr Kohl and President Chirac failed to resolve in Nuremberg on Monday, is a power struggle to determine how authority will be exercised over the economies in the future euro zone. However difficult the row this week, the ultimate aim remains unquestioned. By concentrating on the immediate of "excessive deficits" and a pact

designed to supplement the Maastricht treaty, French politicians can distract themselves from less agreeable questions. Stability pact or not, how much autonomy can the French State expect to preserve in a fully fledged economic, monetary and political union? No mainstream French politician has asked the question out loud in this form. The answer, of course, is precious little.

For politicians on the Continent this truth is an irrelevancy. They assume that the single currency is going to happen; the only unanswered questions concern the exact composition of the leading group. The aim of monetary union is political and not economic; it is to control Germany's power. Westminster debates the single currency and the Government defends the wait-and-see policy as if it were a purely economic matter. This habit of reasoning the rights and wrongs of European integration looks eccentric across the Channel, where "making Europe" is a totem of moral excellence and an affair of heart, not head.

Britons may observe the last-minute doubts inside the French political class and wonder if there may be a change of heart at the eleventh hour; but the odds are against.

President Chirac may have been ambivalent about Europe in the past but he has inherited a commitment to the euro which he cannot abandon without, as France sees it, great loss of power and influence.

The gap between the political culture of the Continent and Britain's is vast and in the long run more significant than that which divides Westminster's politicians. Chancellor Kohl's passionate will to entrench European unification around his own country and France by means of the single currency was always going to be divisive; the outline of the division between Britain and its partners grows daily more visible.

WIRRAL WAITS

The Government should respect by-election conventions

Putting the curious position of Sir John Gorst to one side, the Government will lose its majority once Barnsley East casts its ballots tomorrow night. It would become a minority administration were the electorate of Wirral South to reject the Conservatives when they replace the late Barry Porter.

If, however, those who inhabit the dark corners of the Whips' Office and Conservative Central Office get their way, no such opportunity will occur. Citing spurious precedent and obviously heartfelt concern about the time expense and inconvenience of asking those voters to venture to the polls twice between now and May 22, 1997 — the last legal date when a general election may be called — the party managers apparently see no reason why a by-election should be held there at all.

The conventions that structure such matters are, admittedly, relatively recent. Only since a Speaker's Conference in 1973 has it been accepted that a contest should be initiated, by the Chief Whip of whichever party is defending a seat within three months of an existing Member's departure and that an election should follow very shortly afterwards. This guideline emerged in response to the frequent tardiness prevalent before then and the formula has been ignored on a handful of occasions out of the 120 or so instances since, usually for reasons of practicality such as the long summer recess intervening between a death and the opportunity to trigger the hustings and the opportunity to trigger the hustings. Were it to be respected this time, the

Government would have until February 3 next year to move the writ. Wirral South would then make its choice in early March.

Only those of breathtaking naivety can miss the motive at work here. While Wirral remains without a Member, assuming no further defections from its ranks, the Government will not technically reach minority standing and may retain its majority on all legislative committees. With luck, John Major should be able to soldier on until April or May. Good news for the Downing Street planners, but not for the residents of Wirral South, who could be deprived of proper representation for up to 200 days as a consequence.

That might have been acceptable in the last century, but not now. Members of Parliament point, correctly, to their bulging postbags and expanding casework. Three hundred such letters a week are now common. Over 8,000 inquiries might have to be dealt with on a holding basis. That does not constitute decent democratic practice.

The Government should abandon any plans it might have of avoiding the electorate. If it refuses to do so, the Opposition must have no qualms in offering the writ itself. If this extremely reasonable convention cannot be enforced by the House, then it should be placed on a statutory basis. Those who pay for Parliament are entitled to full constituency service. No taxation without representation is as worthy a principle for Wirral South residents as it was for Washington's revolutionaries.

Awearying of Kenneth Clarke

From Mr Howard Reynolds

Sir, One grows weary at the admiration shown for Kenneth Clarke (Andrew Reid's letter, December 9) and reading of his success as Chancellor (Riddell on Monday, same day).

A recession triggered in large part by the policies of Nigel Lawson, then deepened by an ERM commitment "negotiated" by my view, an apically incompetent successor (now Prime Minister), pitched the United Kingdom into a new economic Dark Age.

Thanks, finally, to the intervention of the markets, the economy began to recover. But recovery did not then and does not now have much to do with Her Majesty's Government, nor does the current display of elementary common sense — long overdue though it is in a Conservative Chancellor — mark out Mr Clarke as a fiscal giant of our times.

The unpalatable truth for this Government is that no matter how much it strives to rewrite recent history, nor how vigorously its supporters seek electoral rehabilitation through the adulation of an unremarkable Chancellor, the Conservative record of economic mismanagement is unlikely to be forgotten or forgiven. Though the general election may be fought some time between now and May 1997, the Conservatives actually lost as long ago as Wednesday, September 16, 1992.

Yours sincerely,
HOWARD M. REYNOLDS.
140 Greencroft, Wetheral, Cumbria.

From Mr Simon Palmer

Sir, Mr Andrew Reid tells us what a successful Chancellor of the Exchequer we have and it is thanks to him we have such a strong economy. Piffle!

Our economy is stronger than of yore because of continuing high unemployment, lack of confidence in a bumpy marketplace and a workforce in fear of losing their jobs prepared to work harder for less money.

Negative equity has not gone away; inflation is due to rise shortly after the general election when the real facts will emerge and a presumably Labour government will be left to pick up the pieces.

Yours etc.
S. PALMER.
5 Coursie, Coolhurst Road, NS.
December 9.

Christian millennium

From Mr Michael Smith

Sir, After pressure from the Prince of Wales and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Virginia Bottomley has promised that the millennium should be an essentially Christian event (report, December 2).

Two aspects need to be considered: the form and the content. The first could include pilgrimages by church congregations to holy places such as Canterbury, York, Walsingham, Lincolnshire, Iona, Assisi and the Holy Land, as well as the mass sealing of church bells.

Equally important is the substance. This should surely include expressions of gratitude for the contribution that Christian virtues have made to global development, as well as a commitment by individuals to renew the spiritual dimension in their lives in an age of increasing secularisation. But it might also include a note of repentence for past wrongs committed by Christians, from the Crusades onwards, who have failed to live by their creed and morality.

The next centuries will see an increasing dialogue between the world's great faiths and their spheres of influence, but we are still a long way from a basis of trust. If the "Christian party to whom everyone is welcome", as Dr Carey calls the millennium celebrations, could also help renew the trust between, for instance, Western culture and Islam, then we would really have something to celebrate.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL SMITH.
46 Stanton Road, Wimbledon, SW20.
December 4.

Brunel auction

From the President of the Newcomen Society

Sir, Whilst we are fortunate that some of Brunel's papers are already in safe keeping at Bristol University Library, it is a matter of extreme regret that the latest rich archive, lost to view for so many years, has not also been placed in the public domain (letter, December 7).

The engineering profession has made a major contribution to the development of Britain's wealth and power. Only through archives such as this one can we fully understand and assess that contribution. How can we ensure that the papers of other engineers can be kept together for the benefit of future historians, if those of one as renowned as I. K. Brunel can be dispersed?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL R. BAILEY, President,
The Newcomen Society for
the Study of the History of
Engineering and Technology,
The Science Museum, SW7.
December 4.

Business letters, page 27

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Global responsibilities in fighting the spread of Aids

From Professor Michael Adler

Sir, Neither your feature of December 2, "The city that is dying of Aids", nor your leading article of the same day, "Day of Aids", highlights what I regard as the fundamental global issue.

The fact that 95 per cent of the estimated 30 million people who will be infected with HIV by the end of the decade, with two million dying a year, live in developing countries.

It is therefore alarming that the Overseas Development Administration's budget continues to fall in real terms. In 1996-97 the cut was 5.4 per cent (£124 million), and in last week's Budget it was 7 per cent (£155 million) for 1997-98; by the year Britain's bilateral aid programme is likely to have fallen to three quarters of its 1993 value.

This reflects a lack of real commitment and responsibility towards developing countries. It is all the more unfortunate since potential HIV vaccines will have to be tested in countries with high levels of infection, such as those in sub-Saharan Africa.

If a vaccine is found to be effective in these countries, where the per-capita health budget is anything between \$4 and \$8 per year, host governments will clearly be unable to afford vaccination for their entire population, any more than they can yet afford the latest antiviral therapies.

A recent American study shows that AZT can considerably reduce mother-to-baby transmission, which runs at 30 per cent in Africa. In most developing countries, the cost of 1½ capsules

of AZT is equivalent to the annual per capita health budget. The developing world, however, can offer research opportunities for AZT for mother-to-baby transmission, such as by the use of lower doses, or of higher doses for shorter concentrated periods.

We in a developed country will thus be using developing countries to prove the efficacy of vaccines and new therapies, but will potentially not be making the benefits of that research available to those who participated in it, or to others at risk.

This is surely unethical. Justice demands that those who bear the risks or burden of scientific investigation should share the benefits.

Yours sincerely,

MICHAEL ADLER,
University College London
Medical School.

The Mortimer Market Centre,
Mortimer Street, WC1.

December 3.

From Professor Emeritus

Gordon T. Stewart

Sir, Official and verifiable statistics prove that in the UK (as in most of Europe) Aids is still a very uncommon disease, with about 1,500 new cases per year confined to high-risk minorities among some homosexual men, drug addicts and their consorts.

It is essentially self-inflicted and avoidable, as is obvious from the lack of appreciable spread by heterosexual transmission in the general population, even in New York City, an orig-

inal epicentre of the disease. Surveillance there showed very few registrations of Aids other than in risk groups in the 74,616 cases registered between 1982 and March 1995.

This concentrates but does not minimise the problem. In New York City, 65 per cent of men, 70 per cent of women and 90 per cent of infants with Aids come from black/Hispanic minorities. In the UK, the overall incidence of Aids between 1982 and 1995 in black women was 140 out of 100,000, compared with 2.9 in white and 1.6 in Asian women. Infants born to black women are 100 times more likely to suffer from Aids than those born to Asian women.

These figures reflect the high frequencies of Aids reported from some — by no means all — regions of the less-developed world, where Aids currently overlaps with an immense spread of all sexually-transmissible and many other indigenous infections, notably tuberculosis. The call for improvement in specific medication is undeniable, but the more urgent priority, and the only available method for successful prevention, is an understanding and explicit description of the risk behaviours and other lifestyle factors anywhere which bring about these immense differences.

I am, yours etc,

GORDON T. STEWART
(Professor of Public Health,
University of Glasgow, 1972-83,
Glenavon, Clifton Down, Bristol.)

December 5.

Lawrence memorial

From the Executive Director of Community Service Volunteers

Sir, The Philip Lawrence Memorial Awards, launched in *The Times* today, will be welcomed by everyone who works with young people, and by young people themselves.

Home Office research shows that giving young people responsibility is the most effective way of diverting them from crime — and responsibility for another person is the most effective way of all.

Our organisation believes that every pupil should complete 1,000 hours of community activity before leaving school, giving them the opportunity to learn new skills, to develop a sense of civic responsibility, and to benefit the wider community.

Rich and poor

From Professor P. D. J. Weitzman

Sir, In the run-up to the season of good cheer and goodwill, what hope is there for our world when today's *Times* carries two disturbing news items side by side on the front page?

One informs us that Britain will spend over £2 billion on presents, food and drink this Christmas. That's around £400 for each of us. Right alongside is the news that children in Afghanistan are robbing graves to get money for their starving families. The bones of the dead are used to make soup and chicken feed, and an average skeleton fetches almost 50 US cents or about 30p.

The nights may be silent and holy, but they must surely be troubled.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID WEITZMAN.
41 Hollybush Road, Cardiff.
December 9.

In Solihull, pupils met the manager and players of their local football team to discuss problems surrounding football violence, and presented their solutions to school assembly. At a school in Leeds, six-year-olds are made responsible for new pupils showing them where to hang their coats and how to find the lavatories. Such examples could both be emulated nationwide.

The Philip Lawrence Memorial Awards will demonstrate the multitude of examples of good citizenship by our young people and encourage more to get involved. It is an excellent start.

Yours sincerely,

ELISABETH HOODLESS,
Executive Director, CSV,
237 Pentonville Road, NI.
December 6.

Heart to hub

From Dr Robin M. Weller

Sir, The morning after a particularly good Saturday night party a while back, though less alert than usual, my wife and I listened to a sermon at 9



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 10: The Queen held an audience at Buckingham Palace this morning.

The Rt Hon John Major MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience of Her Majesty this evening.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Master of Trinity House, was represented by Rear Admiral Patrick Rowe at the Memorial Service for Sir Eric Drake which was held in St Olave's Church, Hart Street, London EC3, today.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 10: The Duke of York today visited Kingston upon Hull and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the East Riding of Yorkshire [Mr Richard Marion].

His Royal Highness this morning presented certificates to members of the Hull Common Purpose programme at the Quality Royal Hotel, Kingston upon Hull.

The Duke of York later visited the Defence School of Transport, Leekworth.

His Royal Highness this afternoon visited Driffield School, Manifold Road, Driffield.

CLARENCE HOUSE
December 10: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother was present this evening at a Reception in St James's Palace given by the Racing Welfare Charities to mark the 150th Anniversary of the Grand National.

The Hon Mrs Rhodes and Sir Alastair Aird were in attendance.

ST JAMES'S PALACE

December 10: The Prince of Wales today visited Bristol and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Bristol (Mr James Tidmarsh).

His Royal Highness, President, Business in the Community, this morning visited the Greenwich Centre, Southwark.

The Prince of Wales afterwards opened the new Sun Life Headquarters, Brierly Furlong, Stoke Gifford, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire (Mr Henry Elwes).

His Royal Highness this afternoon visited the Bristol Cancer Help Centre, Clifton, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Bristol.

The Prince of Wales last opened the Music Department, Victoria Rooms, Bristol University.

Today's royal engagements

His Royal Highness this evening gave a Reception at St James's Palace for Heritage organisations.

The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince's Trust, later attended the premiere of "First Contact" at Empire Leicester Square, London WC2.

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 10: The Duke of Gloucester today visited the West Midlands and was received on arrival by Mr F.C. Graves (Deputy Lieutenant for the West Midlands).

His Royal Highness visited Fujitsu Telecommunications (Europe) Limited, Solihull Park, Warwickshire, and afterwards opened the new regional headquarters of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, Edgbaston Park, 353 Bristol Road.

Later the Duke of Gloucester visited St Basil's Hostel, Edgewood House, Sterling Road, Edgbaston to launch their Silver Jubilee Appeal.

The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron of the Army Educational Corps Association, this morning visited the Royal Hospital Chelsea, London SW1.

YORK HOUSE
December 10: The Duke of Kent this morning opened the William Morris Building, Coventry University, Gosford Street, Coventry, and was met on arrival by Mr Alan Majestys Lord-Lieutenant of the West Midlands (Mr Robert Taylor).

His Royal Highness, as Vice-Chairman, the British Overseas Trade Board, this afternoon visited Jaguar Cars Limited, Browns Lane, Allesley, Coventry, West Midlands.

The Duke of Kent this evening attended a dinner given by the Ambassador of Spain, at Belgrave Square, London SW1.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE RICHMOND PARK
December 10: Princess Alexandra, Vice-Patron of the Young Women's Christian Association of Great Britain this afternoon received Mrs Jenny Cooper upon retiring as President and Mrs Sheila Brain on assuming the appointment.

Her Royal Highness, President, accompanied by the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy, this evening attended a Christmas Carol Concert in aid of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund in St Paul's Cathedral, London EC4.

Ambassador of Sweden

A Memorial Service for Mr Lars-Ake Nilsson, Ambassador of Sweden to the Court of St James's, will be held on Wednesday December 18, at 3pm at St Martin-in-the-Fields, WC2.

Bill Bedford

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Bill Bedford, OBE, AFC, FRAeS, will be held on Thursday, March 13, 1997, at 11.00am at St Clement Danes, Strand WC2.

Reception

The Portuguese Ambassador was the host at a reception at 12 Belgrave Square, yesterday, on the occasion of the publication of *The Jews in Portugal*. Rabbi Abraham Levy and Sir Sigmund Sternberg spoke.

Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, KG, and former Commanding Officers were present.

The Queen's Royal Lancasters
Sir Nigel Broome, HM Ambassador to Germany, was the guest of honour at a regimental dinner held last night in Osnabrück, Germany. Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Swinburn presided.

Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, KG, and former Commanding Officers were present.

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Lady Callaghan of Cardiff, Sponsor, was the guest of honour at a farewell dinner held last night onboard HMS *Battuzze* in the Pool of London. Commander Allan Adair presided.

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Forthcoming marriages

Mr H.J.W. Harper
and Miss H.K.M. Christian
The engagement is announced
between Hugh, younger son of
Mrs P. Canale, of Instow, North
Devon, and Mr T.J. Harper, of
Littleport, Cambridgeshire, and
Hilary, only daughter of Mr and
Mrs W.D. Christian, of Lyme
Regis, Dorset.

Mr D.S. Mackintosh
and Miss B.K. Taylor
The engagement is announced
between Steven (Tosh), younger
son of Mr and Mrs Brian
Mackintosh, of Nannerch,
Flintshire, and Belinda Kate,
daughter of Dr and Mrs Frank
Taylor, of Silsoe, Bedfordshire.

Mr H. McAlpine
and Miss K.J. Nicholls
The engagement is announced
between Hamish, youngest son of
Mr and Mrs Malcolm McAlpine,
of Highfields, Withyham, Sussex,
and Karen, eldest daughter of Mr
and Mrs Trevor Nicholls, of St
Albans, Hertfordshire.

Marriage
Dr J.S. Barnard
and Mrs S.E. Horrox
The marriage took place at Bischofs
Stortford Register Office on
December 7, of Dr John Stefan
Barnard and Mrs Sandra Eliza-
beth Horrox, née Simpson.

Birthdays today

Brigadier R.W. Asworth, registrar,
St Paul's Cathedral, 58; Admiral of
the Fleet Sir Edward Ashmore, 77;
Miss Anna Carteret, actress, 54;
Lord Elliot of Mere, 76; Sir
Robert Fellowes, Private Secretary
to the Queen, 55; Mr Andrew
Lansley, former director, Conserva-
tive Research Department, 40;
Mr Cliff Michelmore, broadcaster
and television producer, 77; Sir
Wilfrid Newton, former chairman,
London Regional Transport, 68;
Ms Karin Papenheim, director,
National Council for One Parent
Families, 42; Mr D.E. Plowright,
former chairman, Granada Tele-
vision, 66; Mr Carlo Ponti, film
producer, 83; Mr Patrick
Reynolds, glass painter, 71; Mr
Raymond Robinson, MP, 37; Mr
Alexander Solzenitsyn, author,
78; Miss S.A. Spencer, former
general secretary, National Coun-
cil for Civil Liberties, 44; Ms
Sheila Walker, former chief
commissioner, Girl Guides Associa-
tion, 79.

Service dinners

HMS Victory
Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, Sec-
ond Sea Lord and Commander-in-
Chief Naval Home Command, was
the host at a dinner held
onboard the flagship *HMS Victory*
in Portsmouth last night. Among
the guests were the High Commis-
sioner for South Africa, the Shadow
Lord Chancellor and Lady Irvine,
and the Naval Adviser to the South African
High Commissioner and Mrs Soder-
lund.

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No private law remedy for excess detention

Olou v Home Office and Another

Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice; Lord Justice Auld and Lord Justice Mummery; Judgment November 29.

Where a prospective plaintiff, who had been committed for trial and held in custody, had been detained for a period in excess of the 112-day time limit between committal and arraignment, without any further order of the court extending the period, no private law right of action for damages lay against the Home Office for false imprisonment or against the Crown Prosecution Service for breach of statutory duty.

The Court of Appeal so held:

(i) dismissing an appeal by the plaintiff, Jeanne Olou, from Miss Barbara Dohmann, QC, who, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division (*The Times* May 8, 1996) on an application by the Home Office had struck out the plaintiff's claim for damages against it for false imprisonment.

(ii) allowing an appeal by the CPS from the judge's refusal to strike out the plaintiff's claim against it for breach of the Prosecution of Offences (Custody Time Limits) Regulations (SI 1987 No 299), as amended by the Prosecution of Offences (Custody Time Limits) (Amendment) Regulations (SI 1989 No 767) and the Prosecution of Offences (Custody Time Limits) (Amendment) Regulations (SI 1991 No 52).

The plaintiff, on the facts as stated for the purposes of the defendants' striking out application, had been committed in custody by the magistrates' court for trial at the crown court.

She was detained in prison under section 1 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 and on a warrant of commitment sent to the governor which directed him to keep her there until she was "delivered in due course of law", a phrase accepted by the parties as referring to delivery to the crown court. The

expiry date of the 112-day time limit was specified on the warrant.

Following her detention at the prison for a period of 81 days in excess of that time limit she began an action against the Home Office, as the department with responsibility for the prison governor in whose custody she had been, and against the CPS for its failure to bring her before the court shortly before the expiry of the time limit so that she might be admitted to bail, as required by regulation 6 of the CPS.

Mr Nicholas Blake, QC and Mr Tim Owen for the plaintiff; Mr Stephen Richards for the Home Office and the CPS.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE referred to the relevant statutory provisions as set out at section 6(3) and (4) of the 1980 Act, section 22(1) and (3) of the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985, Regulation 5 to 8 of the 1987 Regulations made by the secretary of state in exercise of his powers conferred by the 1985 Act and sections 1(6), 3(6) and 4 of the Bail Act 1976.

Their effect, summarised by Lord Justice Glidewell in *R v Maidstone Crown Court, Ex parte Clark* ([1995] 1 WLR 831, 834), was that if a custody time limit, whether the 112 days or a period extended by the court, expired before arraignment in the crown court, the accused was automatically entitled to bail, the court's only powers thereafter being to impose conditions on its grant.

His Lordship summarised Mr Richards' submissions that the governor's duty had been to obey the order of the court that after committing the plaintiff was to be regarded as in the custody of the crown court; that under section 6(3)(a) of the 1980 Act and under the direction given to him in the warrant the governor's duty was to hold her under delivery to the crown court in due course of law; that he had not at any material time been called on so to deliver her and could not lawfully take her on himself to release her.

With regard to the claim against the CPS, his Lordship said that regulation 6 of the 1987 Regulations made it clear that the CPS had to bring an accused person before the crown court shortly before expiry of the custody time limit and might be relieved of that duty only by direction of that court.

The regulation placed the onus for performance of the duty squarely on the CPS; it wholly failed to perform that duty, with the result that the plaintiff spent much longer in prison on remand than she should have done.

The issue was whether a statutory duty was a public law duty only or whether it gave rise to a private law right enforceable by a person injured by breach of the duty and so entitled to recover compensation.

Although the context was novel,

Mr Richards had further argued that in any event the plaintiff had no right to be released after 112 days; her right was to be released on bail by order of the court; although alerted by the terms of the warrant to the expiry date of the time limit the governor had no independent role in making any application to the court, nor any authority to release the plaintiff without an order of the court.

Mr Richards' submission was essentially correct. The plaintiff was in the custody of the crown court. Only by order of the court could that period of custody be brought to an end.

Once the time limit had expired the plaintiff was unlawfully detained and an order leading to her release on bail and subject to such terms as the court could impose.

Once the time limit had expired the plaintiff was unlawfully detained and an order leading to her release on bail and subject to such terms as the court could impose.

The object of the provisions was plainly to confer a general right of access to the prosecution of criminal offences where defendants were remanded in custody to await trial, and if such expedition were lacking, to ensure that they did not languish in prison for excessive periods awaiting trial.

The protection of prospective defendants was thus an object of the provisions. When Parliament enacted section 22 of the 1985 Act it must have expected that custody time limits which the secretary of state was authorised to set by regulations would be realistic and achievable and accordingly would be achieved, if necessary by extension of the court's power to make regulations.

It was the 1985 Act which established the CPS, which was intended to be an efficient and highly professional prosecuting service. While the power conferred by section 22 on the secretary of state was expressed in broad terms, there was nothing to suggest that Parliament intended to give him power to create new private law rights of action.

Regulation 6 made it plain that

it was a familiar question, the applicable principles which were not in issue, being found in *R v Deputy Governor of Parkhurst Prison, Ex parte Hague* ([1921] 1 AC 89) and *X (Minors) v Bedfordshire County Council* ([1995] 2 AC 633).

The relevant provisions of the statute and the regulations had to be studied to determine whether Parliament and the secretary of state intended that anyone injured by failure of the CPS to perform its statutory duty should enjoy a private law right of action sounding in damages.

If for any reason it did not, a defendant injured by its failure was doubtless entitled to apply for release on bail at once, such application being assured of success. There was nothing in the 1985 Act or in the 1987 Regulations to suggest that either Parliament or the secretary of state foresaw the present unhappy conjunction of events.

It could not have been intended to confer a private law right of action for damages in the present circumstances. Support for that was to be found in *Eigasau-Davv Commission of Police of the Metropolis* ([1995] QB 335).

His Lordship would accordingly conclude that the plaintiff's claim against the CPS should also be struck out.

The court was not in possession of the full facts and had accordingly refrained from comment which might be unsound. It would, however, be a matter of some concern if it were that the plaintiff had through no fault of her own spent an excessive time in prison on remand, and had no right to compensation for that injury.

It might be that there were parties other than the Home Office and the CPS from whom the plaintiff might be entitled to redress.

If not, and unless she was the author of her own misfortune, it would seem highly unjust if she were denied any compensation for what would, on that hypothesis, be an undoubted injury.

Lord Justice Mummery delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Auld agreed with both judgments.

Solicitors: Bobbets Mackay, Bristol; Treasury Solicitor.

Resolving unfair dismissal compensation calculations

Digital Equipment Co Ltd v Clements

Before Mr Justice Morison, Miss J. W. Collerson and Lord Gladwin of Clerks; Judgment December 5.

In a judgment which resolved previous conflicting decisions of industrial tribunals and the Employment Appeal Tribunal relating to the payment of compensation for unfair dismissal, the appeal tribunal held that part of a contractual termination payment which was over and above an employee's statutory redundancy payment should have been subtracted from the gross loss before deduction of a percentage reflecting the chance that he would have been dismissed for redundancy even if the dismissal had been carried out fairly.

The same principle regarding the way in which an excess redundancy payment was taken into account applied to any other payment which the employee received after and as a result of his dismissal such as money in lieu of notice, earnings from other employment, or contractual or ex gratia payments made by the employer.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal so held when reviewing a decision in the present case of a different panel of the appeal tribunal (Mr Justice Mummery, Mr E. Hammond and Mr R. H. Phipps ([1996] ICR 829)) allowing an appeal by the employers from

an industrial tribunal sitting at Reading in June 1995, awarding the employee, Mr S. Clements, compensation for unfair dismissal by his employers, Digital Equipment Co Ltd.

The appeal tribunal had allowed the appeal on the ground that the industrial tribunal had erred in deducting a contractual severance payment from the balance of the employee's loss before reducing the balance by 50 per cent to reflect the likelihood of the employee having been dismissed even if the procedure had been fair.

The employee had applied for a review of the decision of the appeal tribunal to be reviewed on the ground, inter alia, that it was given in ignorance of the fact that a different panel of a different panel of the appeal tribunal a month before *Cox v Caudwell* ([1996] ICR 819).

Section 74 of the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978 provides "(1) the amount of the compensatory award shall be such amount as the tribunal considers just and equitable in all the circumstances having regard to the loss sustained by the complainant in consequence of the dismissal in so far as that loss is attributable to action taken by the employer..."

"(2) If the amount of any payment made by the employer to the employee on the ground that the dismissal was by reason of redundancy... exceeds the amount of the basic award which would be

payable as a redundancy payment that excess shall go to reduce the amount of the compensatory award."

Mr David Richardson for the employers; Mr David Christie for the applicant.

MRI JUSTICE MORISON said that the employee had been awarded £11,000 compensation for unfair dismissal as his loss was £43,000 less the amount of compensation he received, namely £22,500.

Following the decision in the House of Lords in *Polyer v A. E. Daylon Services Ltd* ([1988] ICR 142), industrial tribunals asked themselves what would have happened had the employer followed a correct procedure. They were asking what proportion of the loss was attributable to the wrongful action of the employer.

The gross loss was calculated as £43,000. He had received a contractual termination payment which exceeded his statutory redundancy payment by £20,500.

The issue before the tribunal was whether his compensatory award should be £43,000 less £22,500 times 50 per cent, which was £11,250, or £43,000 times 50 per cent less £20,500, which was £1,000.

The industrial tribunal concluded that the larger award was correct and awarded the maximum sum in its power, namely £11,000. The appeal tribunal had allowed the appeal.

The first task of an industrial tribunal considering a compensation award was to ascertain the loss which the complainant sustained "in consequence of the dismissal in so far as that loss is attributable to action taken by the employer".

The appeal tribunal's conclusions were:

1. That the decisions in *Derwent Coachworks v Kirby* ([1995] ICR 49) and *Clement-Clarke International Ltd v Manley* ([1979] ICR 74) could not be accepted as good law and should not be followed.

2. That an excess redundancy

payment should be taken into account as any other payment which the employee received after and as a result of his dismissal, even if he was not entitled to it or possessed of any covering insurance. He was with Jarred Smith who had allowed him to drive the car. The respondent had brought an action against Kam, Smith and the MIB for personal injury and consequential loss.

Section 192 of the 1988 Act provides:

"(1) ... 'road' ... means any highway and any other road to which the public has access..."

Mr Howard Elton for the appellant; Miss Alison Hampton for the respondent.

Pedestrian use sufficient qualification as road

Clarke v Kato and Others

Before Lord Justice McCowan, Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Potter; Judgment November 29.

The regular and incontrovertible use of a car park as a pedestrian route to a parade of shops was sufficient for the route to qualify as a road for the purposes of the Road Traffic Act 1988 and further consideration of whether or not use of the route by prams and bicycles amounted to vehicular use was unnecessary.

The Court of Appeal so held when dismissing an appeal by the Motor Insurers' Bureau from Mr Assistant Recorder Goodchild at Great Grimsby County Court on July 20, 1995 whereby he determined preliminary issues in the car park at the junction of shopping precinct at Watfords road/Springfield Road, Grimsby, where the respondent, Ellen Katie Clark, had been injured, was a road within section 192 of the Road Traffic Act 1988.

Pursuant to the Motor Insurers' Bureau (Compensation of Victims of Uninsured Drivers) Agreement made on December 21, 1988 the MIB was required to satisfy judgments against uninsured drivers in respect of "any relevant liability" which was defined in the agreement as "a liability in respect of which a policy of insurance must insure a person in order to comply with Part IV of the Road Traffic Act [1988].

The respondent, who had been walking through the car park on her way home, had been struck by a car driven by Peter Kato, who was not insured to drive or possessed of any covering insurance. He was with Jarred Smith who had allowed him to drive the car. The respondent had brought an action against Kam, Smith and the MIB for personal injury and consequential loss.

Section 192 of the 1988 Act provides:

"(1) ... 'road' ... means any highway and any other road to which the public has access..."

It was apparent that to qualify as a road to which the public had access it was not necessary that the area concerned should enjoy either the usual appearance or common appellation of a road.

However, the argument before the county court had turned entirely upon whether the car park could reasonably be described or regarded as "any other road to which the public has access". The issue was narrower than that since it was accepted that the public had access to the car park. The question was simply whether or not the whole or part of the car park came within the definition or concept of a "road" at all.

His Lordship considered the relevant case law including the case of *Harrison v Hill* ([1923] 1 AC 13) and *Griffith v Squines* ([1958] 1 WLR 106).

It was apparent that to qualify as a road to which the public had access it was not necessary that the area concerned should enjoy either the usual appearance or common appellation of a road.

Lord Justice McCowan and Lord Justice Waite agreed.

Solicitors: Gosschalks, Hull; Wilkin Chapman, Grimsby.

The respondent had been able to rely upon regular and incontrovertible use of that route by pedestrians.

Unrestricted pedestrian user with or without such use by wheeled traffic as the assistant recorder had found to exist, was sufficient to establish a road provided there was sufficient evidence of a defined route in relation to the pedestrian traffic.

There being clear evidence before the assistant recorder as to whether or not use by prams and bicycles amounted to vehicular use sufficient for the route to qualify as a road was unnecessary.

However, the argument before the county court had turned entirely upon whether the car park could reasonably be described or regarded as "any other road to which the public has access".

It was submitted before the justices on behalf of the appellant that all relevant information relating to the offences had come to the knowledge of the traffic examiner more than six months before the laying of the informations.

The vehicle inspector submitted that it was not the traffic examiner, but the senior traffic examiner's knowledge which was relevant.

The justices found as a fact that the traffic examiner had no authority to determine whether a person should be prosecuted; it was the senior traffic examiner who made the decision whether to prosecute.

On appeal, counsel for the appellant submitted that any person authorised to investigate whether an offence had been committed, driving while disqualified and driving while unqualified against third-party risks.

Accordingly, the original appeal in the present case had not been correctly decided. The employee was entitled to the higher award.

The appeal tribunal would review the decision and conclude that the employers' appeal would be dismissed and the order of the industrial tribunal affirmed.

Solicitors: Mr P. N. Bains, Reading; Free Representation Unit.

Squatters risk

Aldridge Estates Investments Co Ltd v McCarthy and Others

Insurers were entitled to avoid policies of insurance on properties where the level of unoccupancy and the presence of squatters had not been disclosed.

Mr Justice Aspell so held in the Queen's Bench Division on October 20, 1995 when dismissing the plaintiff's claim on a block policy of insurance in respect of a large

portfolio of mostly residential properties in Greater London against defendant insurers.

His Lordship said that even if there had been licensed squatters it would have concluded that they did increase the risk of internal and external damage and were therefore a material circumstance.

Even if they preserved their presence gave rise to the danger of illegal connection to services.

Section 6 of the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988 provides:

"(1) Subject to subsection (2) below, summary proceedings for an offence to which this section applies may be brought within a period of six months from the date on which evidence sufficient in the opinion of the prosecutor to warrant the proceedings came to his knowledge.

"(2) No such proceedings shall

be brought by virtue of this section more than three years after the commission of the offence...

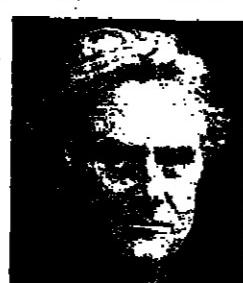
"(3) Schedule 1 to this Act shows the offences to which this section applies."

Schedule 1 to the 1988

THE TIMES

2

INSIDE
SECTION
2
TODAY

**ARTS**

How Richard Eyre
grew up at the
National Theatre
PAGES 31-33

**HOMES**

The would-be buyer
who was gazumped
at every turn
PAGE 37

**SPORT**

Stewart brings
familiar flair
to launch of car
PAGES 38-44

**TELEVISION
AND
RADIO
PAGES
42, 43**

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 11 1996

Clarks to spin off factory outlets in shake-up

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

C&J CLARK. Britain's second-largest private company, is planning to spin off its fast-growing factory outlet operations as it seeks to refocus on its core shoe manufacturing and retailing business.

Two companies are understood to have approached Clarks about a whole or partial sale of its outlets in Street, Somerset, and Kendal in the Lake District. Coopers &

Lybrand has been appointed to sound out potential investors. An outright disposal could raise as much as £50 million, although Clarks is thought to favour a joint venture, with the longer-term aim of

Roger Pedder, chairman of Clarks, said: "We feel that to retain the whole factory outlets business is not a good option because we are a shoe company, and the factory outlets would always be competing for

capital and management resources." Mr Pedder said Clarks as a whole was still looking to float in about two years' time.

Shareholders in Clarks, which is 70 per cent family owned, have been informed of the plan and initial reactions have been positive. The business has been through a major shake-up since Tim Parker was brought in as chief executive from Kenwood Appliances in January. In July Clarks announced the closure of three factories and

1,400 job cuts, reducing the worldwide workforce to around 17,000. Mr Parker said at the time that the cuts were necessary to "address the poor performance of our core footwear operations".

Flootation of Clarks, which had sales of more than £720 million last year, has been on the cards since family shareholders joined battle in 1993 over whether to accept a £184 million takeover bid from Berisford International. The offer was narrowly

rejected. Disposing of the factory outlets should help appease shareholders who have felt unhappy about the company's direction.

Companies thought likely to take an interest include RAM-Eurocentres, which is already in a 50-50 joint venture with Clarks in a Doncaster factory outlet. Others likely to figure are BAA-McArthur Glen, the Anglo-American factory outlet joint venture, as well as other operators in the sector, such as Freeport Leisure and Value Retail.

Northern fights bid with merger

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

NORTHERN ELECTRIC yesterday attempted to fend off the unwanted bid advances of CE Electric with plans to merge a large chunk of its business with another electricity company.

Northern will merge its electricity and gas supply operations — the parts that cover billing and customer service — with another company if the bid by CE Electric, the bid vehicle for the US grouping led by CalEnergy, fails. Northern, which says such a merger will deliver annual savings of £28 million, will not say with which company it is involved in advanced talks. Scottish Hydro-Electric and United Utilities have been tipped, although one of the other independent regional electricity companies, such as Southern or London, could emerge as the likely partner. Yorkshire Electricity yesterday ruled itself out of the running.

With less than two weeks remaining on the bid clock, Northern also unveiled plans to lift its dividend for the year to March 1998 by 17 per cent and thereafter increase it by 7 per cent. The company also intends further generation development in partnership with Rolls-Royce and expansion in upstream gas through joint venture.

More details of Northern's

strategy will be revealed today in information sent to shareholders.

Northern said that the interests of the two regional companies would be broadly equal. It said efficiencies would be won through maximising gas and electricity buying and integrating billing, customer service and administration.

The joint venture, subject to regulatory approval, would begin next year and would therefore be ready for the competitive market in domestic electricity due to begin in 1998. By that time, competition in household gas, which is already being phased in, would be nationwide.

Northern's defence comes after CE Electric raised its bid last week from 630p a share to 650p.

David Morris, Northern's chairman, said: "We can pay these higher dividends because of Northern Electric's strong financial position. Furthermore, the options available for our supply business — which conservatively we have not included in our projections — provide significant additional upside."

Northern's strategy was dismissed by CE Electric. David Sokol, chairman and chief executive, said: "Northern Electric's latest press release describes speculative claims. CE Electric's final offer is real."

CE Electric, led by the junked CalEnergy, said the dividend policy of Northern Electric increased the company's exposure to financial risk.

Northern's shares rose 6p to 611½p on the plans. Some industry watchers thought Northern's defence could be enough to secure its second successful battle against a hostile bidder.

A decision is imminent from Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, on the bid for Northern. He must make an announcement on whether the bid should be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission by next Monday.

City fears over a referral

have depressed Northern's share price, which has continued to trade well below the first offer price from CE Electric.

Pennington, page 25

Channel 5 costs leap by £50m

By ERIC REGULY

THE shareholders of Channel 5 are to reveal next week that the broadcaster's launch costs have climbed by £50 million.

The extra funds will be spent on the effort to finish returning TVs and video machines in some 14 million homes to ensure that they can receive the channel without interference. Channel 5 is scheduled to make its debut on March 30, three months later than originally planned.

Channel 5's shareholders

Pearson and United News & Media, both of Britain; Warburg Pincus, the American investment bank; and CLT, the Luxembourg broadcaster — confirmed that the total returning costs will reach £150 million or more, up from the initial estimate of £60 million and the revised estimate of £100 million.

Pearson is expected to confirm the £150 million figure on Tuesday or Wednesday next week, when it is scheduled to release an end-of-year trading statement.

David Einstein, Channel 5's chief executive, said that about four million of the 14 million homes in its broadcast area had been returned. Interference clears, page 27



Goal achieved: Guy Askham, Saints chairman, left, and Rupert Lowe did a reverse deal

Takeover nets share quote for Saints

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

SOUTHAMPTON will become the latest football club to float next month when it completes a reverse takeover by Secure Retirement, a property development group, valuing the club at £101 million.

The Saints believe the listing will help in the relocation from The Dell, its present cramped ground, to a 30,000 capacity stadium on the city's edge, costing around £30 million and including shops, an athletics track and other facilities.

The float will enable Southampton to gain access to new financing while the club will receive an immediate £3 million boost of cash

from Secure Retirement's balance sheet.

Deals begin on December 24 and the new company will be valued at £48 million. Fans will have to pay almost £600 for a "sake" as the minimum shares that can be bought at the SS8p offer price is 100.

Rupert Lowe, chairman of Secure Retirement who will continue as chairman of the new Southampton Leisure Holdings, said: "We are aiming to create in Southampton a footballing force for the millennium and, in the new stadium, a focal point for the local community."

Mr MacGregor is the first Unigate non-executive director to have a background in politics.

MacGregor joins board of Unigate

JOHN MACGREGOR, the former Cabinet minister, has joined the board of Unigate, the dairy products group, as a non-executive director.

The Conservative MP for South Norfolk is already on the board of Associated British Foods, the sugar and Ryvita manufacturer, and Slough Estates, the property company. Mr MacGregor worked alongside Ian Martin, chairman of Unigate, and Ross Buckland, chief executive, when he was Agriculture Minister from 1987 to 1989.

Mr MacGregor is the first

Unigate non-executive director to have a background in politics.

A&L cautious as members back change

By CAROLINE MERRELL

MEMBERS of the Alliance & Leicester Building Society have voted overwhelmingly for conversion. However, the board may still carry out its threat to delay the flotation because it fears proposals in the Building Societies Bill that could lead to an immediate takeover bid after flotation.

Speaking about the vote Mr White said: "We are pleased that so many of our investing and borrowing members participated in the voting process and that a clear majority of those members voted in favour of conversion."

If the flotation goes ahead, each qualifying member will get 250 shares worth total £1,000. The price of the shares are expected to be between 385p and 435p, giving the company a market capitalisation of £2.5 billion.

This flat distribution of shares has antagonised members who have large balances with the society. The other societies, which are converting or have already converted, paid out shares according to the size of the balance.

These members have together formed the Alliance & Leicester action group. Some of them yesterday repeated their warning that they would withdraw £150 million from the society after its conversion.

Another proposal says

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4035.7	(+24.1)
FTSE All share	3,224.62	(+11.49)
Nikkei	20222.42	(+216.41)
New York	8497.11 (+33.17)	+3.17
S&P Composite	757.10 (+1.94)	+0.26

US RATE

Federal Funds	5.14%	(5.14%)
Long Bond	100%	(100%)

Yield	6.45%	(6.45%)
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LONDON MONEY

3-month Interbank	6%	(6%)
Libor long gilt future (Mar)	110%	(109%)

STERLING

New York	1.6510	(1.6470)
London	1.6517	(1.6474)
DM	2.5665	(2.5644)
FF	2.1910	(2.1879)
Yen	187.21	(186.69)
£ Index	93.2	(93.0)

US-DOLLAR

London	1.5535	(1.5580)
FF	5.2070	(5.2020)
DM	1.2249	(1.2249)
Yen	113.28	(113.45)

YEN-DOLLAR

London close	508.35 (\$0.6815)
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* denotes midday trading price

Undermined

Shares in RJB Mining, Britain's largest coal producer, plunged from 485p to 372½p after BZW, the stockbroker, cut its profits forecast from £196 million to £185 million next year and its forecast for the following year from £232 million to £192 million. *Tempus*, page 26

Building up

A change of Government would not halt the housing recovery, according to one leading housebuilder. *Page 28, Tempus*

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Wax Lyrical lights the way to expansion

By CLARE STEWART

WAX LYRICAL, the privately owned high street candle retailer, has announced a management buy-in and revealed its burning ambition to double in size within three years.

Iain McGourty, currently managing director of Ernest Jones, the Siger-owned jewellery group, is to become the firm's managing director on January 1 and is acquiring a 10 per

cent stake. Wax Lyrical was set up in 1990 by two former management consultants Marjorie Bannister, 34, and Mark Chessel, 33, and has 32 shops. Both founders will retain a controlling stake of around 70 per cent although they will hand over executive management control.

"We realised we had reached a stage where we could see that a management more skilled in retail would be better for the company,"

said Mrs Bannister. She added that both she and Mr Chessel would remain "active non-executive directors" within the group.

Mr McGourty said the company planned to expand by opening between 8-12 new stores a year and look to overseas markets by appointing country franchisees. Immediate plans could be financed from company resources. A market flotation was a possibility. The company

reported sales of just under £11 million last year with operating profits of £1 million. It employs 300 staff.

The group says it has a 10-20 per cent share of the UK candle market, which is estimated to be worth £50-70 million. Within the shops candles, from decorated to scented, make up just over one quarter of sales while other products sold include table decorations, gifts and home fragrance.

As a specialist retailer, says Mr McGourty, Wax Lyrical has no direct competitor though department stores are significant candle sellers.

This Christmas Wax Lyrical will expect to sell around 35 million candles. Despite this seasonal rush, Britons are apparently near the bottom of the Euro-league for candle buying. Scandinavians buy the most while the Dutch buy ten times more candles than the British.

Inquiry into directors of Facia 'necessary'

By JASON NISSE

CHRISTOPHER HARRISON, the former chairman of Facia, Stephen Hinckliffe's collapsed retail empire, yesterday told creditors owed more than £100 million that the conduct of the directors should be investigated by its liquidators.

Mr Harrison chaired the Facia creditors' meeting in Leeds after Mr Hinckliffe refused to attend on legal advice. The collapse of Facia in May is being investigated by the Serious Fraud Office.

Mr Harrison sat silently through the meeting. However, a statement from him was read out. It said: "The chairman refuses to answer any questions as to the cause of the collapse of the Facia Group as this will be investigated by the liquidators. They will look at the conduct of the directors, which the chairman accepts as necessary, and the role of third parties."

Creditors, led by Sears, the retailer, which claims to be owed £30.1 million, appointed Malcolm Cohen and Peter Copp of BDO Stoy Hayward, the accountants, as liquidators in preference to Mr Hinckliffe's choice, Brendan Guilfoyle of Geoffrey Martin and Company in Leeds.

Earlier Mr Hinckliffe's solicitors, Peters and Peters, had put out a statement. This placed the blame for the collapse of Facia on third parties and called for an

investigation into the role of Sears, United Mizrahi Bank of Israel, which lent £7.4 million to Facia, and KPMG, the receivers appointed by United Mizrahi. "So far as Mr Hinckliffe is concerned, the Facia Group need not have collapsed and could have and should have survived," the statement said.

Speaking after the meeting, Mr Cohen said that it was too early to say what he would be investigating but that he would look closely at any issue brought to his attention by creditors.

At the meeting it was revealed that, after paying off United Mizrahi, the Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise, the Facia empire owes a total of £101 million. However, the total assets available to pay those debts may only be £3.06 million, leaving creditors with just 3p in the pound.

This is towards the lower end of the expectations of KPMG, the receivers, who had said there could be as much as 10p in the pound. KPMG has sent a report to the Department of Trade and Industry on Facia, which is believed to recommend the disqualification of Mr Hinckliffe as a director. He and Mr Harrison are facing disqualification proceedings over the 1993 collapse of Boxgrey, a tennis court-maker.

Diary, page 27



Clear view: Eddie Boss, left, and Robert Atkin, finance director, said Anglian has healthy orders for the second half

Shake-up pays dividends at Anglian

INTERIM results at Anglian, the window builder, are showing the first fruits of the new management team's strategy. Pre-tax profits are up from £4.5 million to £9.5 million in the six months to September 28 (Oliver August writes).

Earnings per share rose to 7.3p from 3.5p and the dividend rises 20 per cent to 3.6p.

Eddie Boss, chief executive since the start of the year, said commercial turnover rose 22 per cent to £19.5 million, reflecting the higher orders at the last year end but the market remained very competitive during the period.

Carlton invests \$28.5m in Getty media enterprise

By ERIC REGULY

JULY at \$10 a share and is controlled by Getty Investments, a holding company for the Getty trusts.

Carlton bought 3.74 million new Getty shares at \$15.25 apiece and intends to double its Getty ownership to 20 per cent within two years. Michael Green, Carlton's chairman, is to join the Getty board.

Jonathan Klein, Getty's chief executive, said that the Carlton funds will be used to expand the company's library of visual material, ranging

from archival film footage to photojournalism collections.

Getty Communications has three divisions. Tony Stone Images specialises in contemporary stock photography. Hulton Getty owns the world's largest collection of archival photography, dating from the 1840s and Fabulous Footage provides contemporary film footage.

In the nine months to the end of September, the company reported sales of \$63.5 million, up 41 per cent.

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Northern's devotion to shareholder value deserves backing Freemans frequent-flyer flutter Saints alive to big time

CITY greed, political meddling and erratic regulation are fast converting Britain's utilities from the steady, wholesome, provincial life to a roller-coaster metropolitan lifestyle of high excitement and even higher risk.

In Northern Electric's case, City temptations started things off. In order to fend off a hostile takeover bid from Trafalgar House — and what a lucky escape that was — Northern conducted what seemed a scorched earth defence. It promised to hand over so much cash and near-cash to its shareholders, while handing its business to the hilt, that the wider world realised regional electricity companies were rolling in it. From this Labour's utility levy was born to unlikely respectability.

On the supposed scorched earth, Northern has cultivated another fertile orchard of fruit to offer its shareholders in an attempt to persuade them to stick with the board, rather than accept a second unwanted bid from an equally unattractive source. This one has come from CE Electric, an unprepossessing consortium led by CalEnergy.

A 17 per cent hike in dividend proffered for next year would give Northern shares a prospective yield of 10.2 per cent at

yesterday's prices, and 9.6 per cent at CE's increased offer of 650p per share. Such returns imply extremely high risks. Apart from the unknown levy, there is domestic competition, further price control and highly-gearaged normal risks of trade.

However, these risks would surely not justify such a lowly rating if the City did not take an even more short-term view. The consortium is in pole position with nearly a third of Northern's equity on side. Given the Government's sudden, belated aversion to utility bids ahead of the election, traders are being ultra-cautious, waiting to see if the President of the Board of Trade refers the affair to the monopolies authorities by Monday.

That combination undermines Northern's argument that it is undervalued. Yet the company has a strong call on the support of its shareholders. Few have been so dedicated to delivering value to investors. The board has kept its promises and justified the financial risks it took. The

proposed joint venture with another REC such as London Electricity, though not in the bag, shows there is still scope to cut costs. Northern's approach to new markets opened by competition is as bright as any.

That gives some confidence that the board will continue to pull out plums, not least to sustain real dividend growth after the next review of its regulated business. If shareholders spurn such assiduity, many more boards will surely opt for the quiet life.

RUN FOR your life! Like a rampaging monster from some Fifties' sci-fi epic, the National Lottery is taking over the nation. Soon you won't be able to open the larder without a lottery voucher fluttering out. And any day now, that quiet woman from down the road will be hammering on the front door, eager to

for lottery tickets. They can always take their £1 commission instead.

Freemans, which follows Camelot's second official partner (another eight may follow), is nevertheless out to milk the connection for all it is worth. Its flyer to agents leaves one in no doubt, starting: "What would you do if you won the National Lottery? Buy a diamond ring. Or maybe a sports car. Go on a world cruise, perhaps. Or even buy your own tropical island." All a far cry from tramping round the estate with a Freemans catalogue tucked under your arm.

And what of Camelot? Its merchandising arm, National Lottery Enterprises, has been a low-key affair so far, contributing less than £300,000 to Good Causes in the year to end-March, but all that could be about to change. A clutch of lucrative marketing agreements could be just what Camelot needs to shore up its profits. It keeps 50 per cent

of the money paid over in marketing fees, and takes the usual cut of extra ticket sales — potentially millions, in the case of Freemans alone.

Everyone can smell a winner, and Camelot's would-be partners are no exception. But where will it end? Packets of biscuits? Soft drinks? Oven chips and mail-order nighties are just the beginning.

Unlikely partners

A SOUTHAMPTON fan could not resist quipping yesterday that the club's merger with a retirement home business made perfect sense given the age of some of the team's players. But at least Southampton's unusual choice of a route to the market will introduce the phrase "reverse takeover" to the increasingly financially literate terraces. Football fans are quickly learning that it is a game of two halves — with only one half

relating to activity on the pitch. When Southampton and Sunderland join the market in the next few weeks there will be a total of 10 quoted clubs with a combined market capitalisation of £850 million. The arrival of Aston Villa, Newcastle United and Sheffield United shortly will take the total above the £1 billion mark, even though Deloitte Touche calculates that the turnover for the whole game in 1994-95 — the last year for which accounts are available — was only £470 million.

As Keith Wiseman, vice-chairman of Southampton and chairman of the Football Association, says, flotation is becoming a way for the medium-sized clubs to stay in the same game as the big six. Southampton and Sunderland share a similar sized fan base, modest historical success and perilous current positions in the Premiership. But while Southampton has chosen to come to the market valued at £101 million — less than those Endsleigh League giants Millwall and Preston North End — Sunderland's float values the club at £48 million. One set of red-and-white fans is destined to be mightily disappointed by their club's arrival in the financial big time.

Shining in the bright lights

PENNINGTON



flog you knickers, skirts and everything else in the bulging Freemans catalogue.

Not inertia selling, you understand, but a customer incentive scheme — a frequent-flyer programme for home shoppers. That is how Oflot, the lottery regulator, describes Camelot's latest tie-up in which one million Freemans agents stand to get their hands on dozens of free lottery vouchers. Freemans flyers branded with the Camelot logo will come whizzing through letter boxes in the new year in their thousands, but this is not inertia selling. No one is forcing anyone to swap their vouchers

Costain chiefs to go as US Coal deal is sealed

BY OLIVER AUGUST

COSTAIN, the embattled construction company, is clearing the decks with the departure of the chairman and the chief executive after the sale of its US Coal business to Rencoal of America for £28 million.

Alan Lovell, the chief executive, will resign as soon as a successor has been found in a surprise move that follows months of personal attacks on Mr Lovell for his handling of Costain's financial problems.

He said: "It is the right time for me to leave, now that the restructuring is completed. In an ideal world a construction company should be run by an engineer. I am a mere accountant."

Mr Lovell said that one of

the company's largest shareholders, the Kharafi investors from the Middle East, had not been very supportive towards him. He expects the search for a successor to last between four and six months.

Sir Christopher Benson, the chairman, will also leave the company, to be replaced on January 1 by Dr Azman Firdaus bin Shafii, a member of the Intria group, which rescued Costain from financial difficulties last summer.

Dr Azman, a joint deputy chairman, came face to face with shareholders at the last extraordinary meeting three months ago, where he was prevented from giving a presentation by protesters against

the Newbury bypass, which Costain is building. Mr Lovell said of Dr Azman: "He is a very impressive individual. Sir Christopher had said in July that he would step down by next May. Dr Azman's appointment shows the total commitment Intria brings to Costain."

The disposal of US Coal had been expected since last July when Lonrho scuppered a deal at the last minute. The deal with Rencoal includes £8 million of capitalised finance lease obligations. Rencoal is a private group with metal manufacturing and trading interests in America.

Mr Lovell said Rencoal will assume certain long-term li-

bilities. "This is less cash than the Lonrho deal but it is also a different sort of deal. We had been looking to sell the business for a few years. It is a high risk area and not suitable for us."

Costain now says it expects additional losses of £11 million from US Coal, as well as £4 million extra losses from three projects in the Middle East which were managed badly or undertaken.

Costain is also selling its one-third interest in the Spinfields development site to Metacorp, a Malaysian public company, which is 23 per cent owned by Intria, which itself has a 40 per cent stake in Costain.

Compass will be plotting steady course

COMPASS GROUP, the catering company, is to embark on a period of organic growth and consolidation following its recent acquisition spree (Alasdair Murray writes).

Francis Mackay, chief executive, said the company, which spent £590 million to acquire Eurest International, would continue to look for suitable bolt-on acquisitions but was not intending to make any major purchases this year.

Compass yesterday unveiled a 56 per cent increase in full-year profits, before tax and exceptional, to £114 million. The total dividend was increased 13 per cent to 86p. A final dividend of 53.8p is payable on March 27. *Tempus*, page 26

RJB shares fall 23% on circular

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SHARES in RJB Mining, Britain's largest coal producer, plunged yesterday after a sharp profits downgrade from the company's own broker.

BZW provided the financial backing for RJB's purchase of the English and Welsh collieries and its revised figures sent shock waves through the stockmarket.

RJB saw 23 per cent wiped from its market value after BZW knocked next year's forecast from £196 million to £185.3 million and predicted much lower figures for the following year, reducing its 1997 forecast from £232 million to £192 million.

Earnings per share forecasts for 1997 and 1998 were cut by 19 per cent and 20 per cent respectively. The share

price fell from 485p to 372½p. The company also faces the threat of strike action with the National Union of Mineworkers midway through a ballot on industrial action.

BZW lowered its profits forecasts because of the increased threat of cheap coal imports and because of output problems at Ashfordby. Coal imports, in common with other imported goods, have become cheaper through the increased strength in sterling.

RJB has contracts with the main generators for coal sales which run until 1998. But it has to compete with cheaper imports of coal for other sales to electricity generators and to users of industrial coal.

Tempus, page 26

Yorkshire lights up interim

YORKSHIRE Electricity has lifted its dividend 33 per cent, spending £25.1 million on half-year payments to its shareholders (Christine Buckley writes).

The interim, payable on March 25, was set at 15.8p.

Yorkshire had signalled its move earlier this year amid analysts' predictions that cash would be handed back to utility shareholders to bleed funds before a Labour Government's windfall tax. But Malcolm Chatwin, chief executive, denied that was the intention.

Pre-tax profits for the six months to the end of September fell 27 per cent to £80.8 million, as the last distribution price review bit. *Tempus*, page 26

SIEMENS
NIXDORF

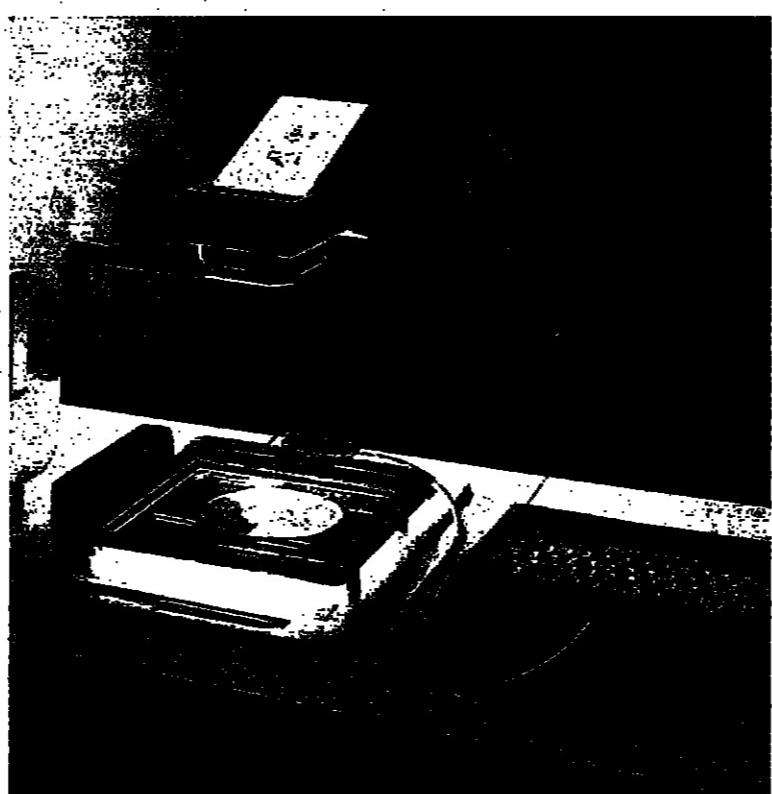


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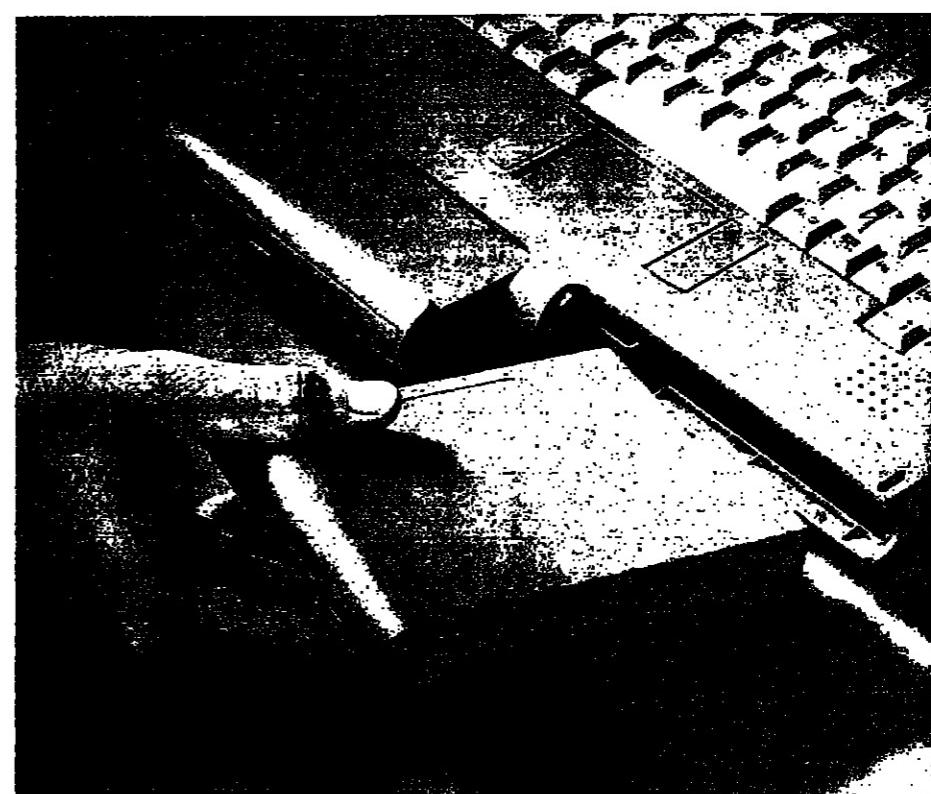


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PC Magazine Dec 1995



Siemens Nixdorf: User Centred Computing

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Two big names prepare to tumble from top 100

TWO constituents of the FTSE 100 Index, Courtaulds and Pilkington, are expected to lose their places when the index actuaries meet today for their quarterly review.

Confirmation that both companies have been booted out after a period of underperformance could result in further weakness for the shares in the days ahead. Courtaulds ended the session 31p down at a new low of 384p, while Pilkington slipped 2p to a fresh low of 148p in a rising market.

It is expected that they will be replaced in the index by Hays, the fast growing logistics group, 2p firmer at a year's high of 542p, and Mercury Asset Management, the City's biggest fund manager. Mercury ended the session 2p dearer at £12.38p, just 91p shy of its peak.

Promotion to the top 100 companies not only brings with it increased prestige, but also attracts the attention of the index-tracking funds. They are likely to increase their weightings in both stocks, providing a further boost.

The rest of the equity market continued to be squeezed higher although prices did close below their best of the day. Stock shortages, especially among blue chips, exacerbated the situation for market-makers. By the close a total of 860 million shares had changed hands, a significant improvement on Monday.

Once again London took its lead from a strong performance by Wall Street overnight that saw the Dow Jones industrial average soar around 80 points. The Dow was continuing to make headway in early trading last night but the FTSE 100 index saw its lead cut to 24.1 at 4,035.7 by the close as investors looked cautiously towards today's monthly meeting between the Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England.

BAT Industries continues to go from strength to strength with the price adding 111p at 488p as speculation about the demerger of its financial services arm gathers pace. Only last week there was talk that bid talks with Commercial Union, up 31p at 663p, had broken down.

FJK put on 61p at 206p as Merrill Lynch tipped the stock as one of its top ten buys for 1997. British Aerospace also stood out with a jump of 18p at 651p as Cazenove, the bro-



Francis Mackay and Roger Matthews of Compass, up 10p

ker, came out with some positive comments. Glynnwood International put on 11p at 336p as SBC Warburg moved from a "hold" to a "buy". A savage profits downgrade by its own broker, BZW, left RJB Mining nursing a fall of 112p to close at a low for the year of 372p. BZW has reduced its forecast for the current year by 5.2

Keep an eye on Somerfield, the supermarket chain, one of the few companies to trade higher on Friday and which rose a further 71p to 162p yesterday as 3.64 million shares were traded. There is again talk of possible consolidation among the food retailers with Somerfield tipped as a bid target.

million to £185.3 million. For 1997 it has wiped a massive £40 million from its estimate of £232 million, leaving a figure of £192 million.

A strong increase in half-year profits lifted British Land 10p to 497p, while Berkeley Group, the housebuilder, responded to the news that reservations are up by 25 per cent on the previous year with a rise of 21p

Laing, 51p to 277p, and Westbury, 61p to 231p.

Half-year figures helped Compass, whose chief executive is Francis Mackay and finance director is Roger Matthews, to finish 10p higher at 627p after confirming a strong surge in profits last year as the benefits of recent acquisitions started to be felt. The group remains bullish about the current year and has hedged

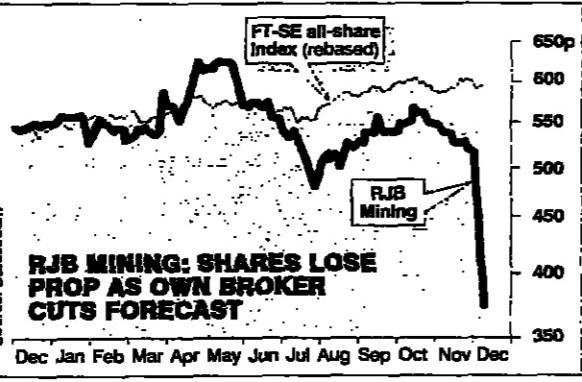
In the future the March series of the long gilt put on 11p to 510p as the total number of contracts dropped to 42,000.

Treasury 8 per cent 2015 was 111p, better at £103.32, while Treasury 8 per cent rose 14p to 103.32.

□ NEW YORK: On Wall Street shares extended Monday's rally in heavy morning trade, with the technology sector showing strength. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 33.17 points higher at 6,497.11.

RJB MINING: SHARES LOSE PROP AS OWN BROKER CUTS FORECAST

Source: Datamann



Closing Prices Page 29

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Period Open High Low Sett Vol

FTSE 100 Previous open interest: 69536

FTSE 250 Previous open interest: 533

Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 47732

Three Mth Euro Yen Previous open interest: 112808

Three Mth Euro DM Previous open interest: 112808

Long Gilt Previous open interest: 116427

Japanese Govt Bond Previous open interest: 42491

German Gov Bd Bond Previous open interest: 231808

Three month ECU Previous open interest: 40856

Euro Swiss Franc Previous open interest: 116401

Italian Govt Bond Previous open interest: 42491

Prize Bank Bills (Disk) 6-5%

Bankers' Floating Money Market 6-6%

Interbank 6-6%

Oversight open 5-5 close 5-5

Local Authority Dept 0-0%

Sterling CDR 0-0%

Dollar CDR 5.48

Building Society CDs 6-6%

Series Jan Apr Jul Oct

Series Feb May Aug Feb May Aug

Series Dec Feb May Dec Feb May

Series Jan Apr Jul Oct

Series Feb May Aug Feb May

Series Dec Mar Jun Dec Mar Jun

THE
TIMES

CITY
DIARY

Back on the milk round

SOUNDS of ministerial back-scratching from Unigate, which yesterday appointed the Rt Hon John MacGregor as non-executive director. The Conservative MP for Norfolk South first met Ian Martin, Unigate's chairman, and Ross Buckland, chief executive, during his time as Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food from 1987-89.

Unigate makes whipped cream from the suggestion that MacGregor's position on the board of Associated British Foods will lead to conflict. An erudite conjurer, and member of the Magic Circle, who knows what tricks MacGregor has up his sleeve.

Sinking feeling

CHRIS HARRISON chose a fitting venue for yesterday's creditor's meeting of Facia in Leeds. There to discuss future plans for the collapsed retailing group, the director was centre stage of the Ark Royal Suite in the plush Queen's Hotel. Just visible over Harrison's right shoulder was a tell-tale headline from *The Yorkshire Evening Post*: "The Day the Ark Royal Sank."

Lord somewhere

A CHRISTMAS gift for the hardworking City type with aristocratic pretensions... Viscount Mountgarret, former president of Yorkshire Cricket Club, expects to make between £5,000 and £7,000 today from the sale at Stationers' Hall of the ancient title of the Lord of the Manor of Stanbury. Mountgarret, best known for shooting at a hot-air balloon flying over his grouse moor in the 1980s, is coy about his reasons for selling the title, which came into his family through marriage in 1894. "Why do you buy an ice cream? How long is a piece of string?" was his quick retort when asked why, adding that he didn't even know where the village was.



"Never mind their score, what's the share price?"

Blossoming out

A RATHER risqué invitation from Medical Insurance Agency to the launch of its new dental plan; a picture of Marilyn Monroe, whose outfit reveals a bite more than her pearly white teeth. The inspiration? Marilyn Orchard, the new general manager of Medical Insurance Agency's Client Division, and the Scottish founder of Demplan, which she went on to sell for £1 million. Orchard boasts that constantly being called Marilyn Monroe as a child turned her into a wallflower. How things have changed.

Canary duo

KNIGHT FRANK and Richard Ellis will take over from Jones Lang Wootton, whose contract expires at the end of this year, as joint agents, responsible for letting office space at Canary Wharf. About 80 per cent of the 45 million sq ft completed is let, with a population of 15,000 rising to 19,000 during 1997 when BWZ and Reader's Digest Association relocate to Europe's largest office tower.

MORAG PRESTON

Phoenix's 'baaad man' ready to fight for his resurrection

Craig Lord meets Charles Keating Jr, anti-hero of the 1980s US savings and loans scandal

Like the city that Charles Keating Jr helped to develop from the unforgiving Sonoran desert of Arizona, the fortunes of the former multimillionaire are rising phoenix-like from the ashes of his criminal convictions as one of the biggest financial fraudsters in history.

After four-and-a-half years in US state and federal prisons, the feisty 73-year-old, who counts Mother Teresa among his friends but was said to have robbed elderly investors of their life savings to fund failing businesses and an ostentatious lifestyle, professes himself fit for the fight that is set to follow the questioning last week of his federal convictions on more than 70 counts of racketeering and fraud.

He will need to be fit. For in a land where public perception is as good as nine-tenths of the law, a threatened retrial presents Keating with a task of reversing his reputation as the unrepentant and arrogant anti-hero of the US savings and loans crisis of the 1980s that will eventually cost American taxpayers \$500 billion plus interest (Keating's share is put at \$3 billion).

Keating's earlier state conviction was quashed in April on the grounds that Judge Lance Ito, of O.J. Simpson fame, had given the jury "flawed instructions". The federal convictions fell because 14 of the 18 jurors knew or learnt details of the state case and conviction—in effect, they were deliberating on a man who had already been found guilty of the same charges.

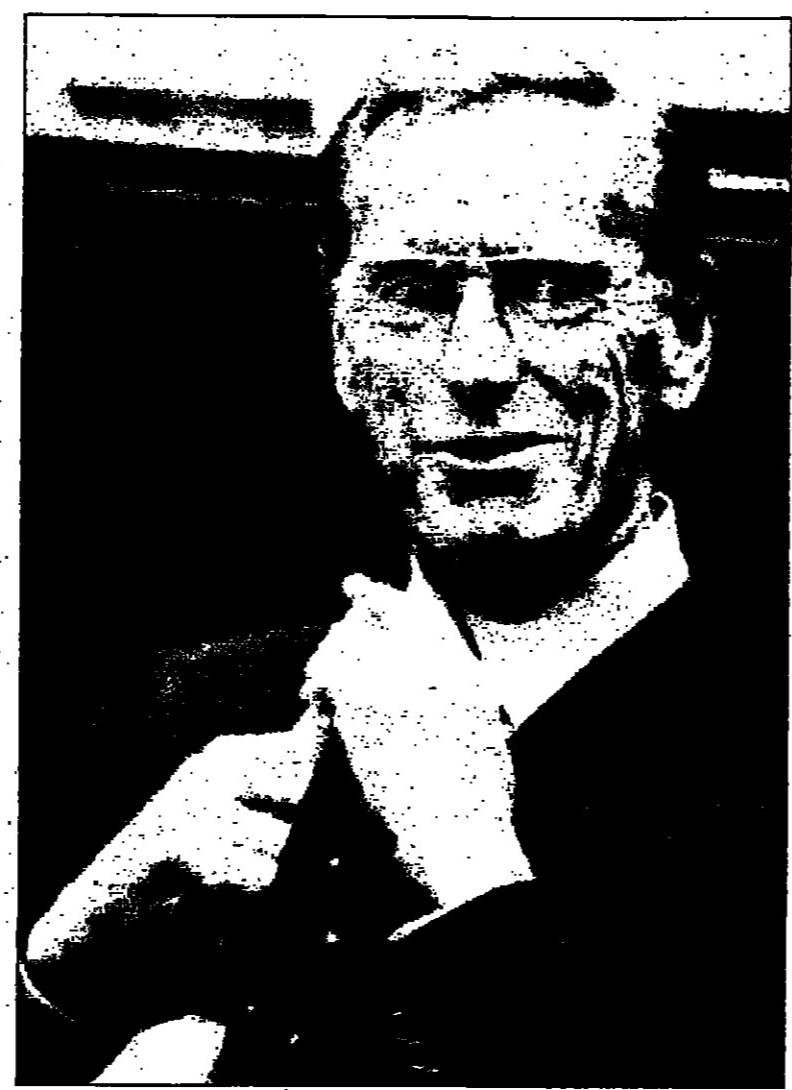
In spite of that, Keating, who paid five senators handsomely in an effort to prevent the re-regulation of the thrift industry, remains a villain in the eyes of many, particularly bondholders of the collapsed American Continental Corporation (ACC), of which he was chairman and chief executive, and its subsidiary Lincoln Savings & Loans. Mention Keating to almost anyone in Phoenix and the reaction is the same: "He's a baaad man." But is he not a free man? "Yep," shrugged the shopkeeper at the resplendent Phoenixian Hotel and Golf Resort that Keating built and owned until his assets were seized in 1989, "but it just goes to show that money can buy you anything in this country".

That "uninformed" opinion, said Keating in an interview with *The Times* in which he broke a five-year media silence, is something that may be impossible to reverse. "Everybody hates rich people." A somewhat surreal assertion from a pensioner who claims to be all but broke and whose manner is far from that of an arrogant corporate despot.

But then Keating was recalling wealthier times when he would think nothing of flying his extended family to Europe to choose a chef for the Phoenixian, lend his private jet to Mother Teresa, to whom he was a generous donor, and when his Catholic creed was held alongside a more combative corporate one—"a man can do no wrong if he always rides to the sound of the guns," stated the bronze plaque in his office.

Keating was convicted of looting the federally-insured deposits of Lincoln by booking false profits on sham land and securities transactions, many of those involving the issue of "risky" junk bonds, while fooling auditors and investors about the failing health of Lincoln and ACC. In the midst of the crisis ACC bonds were issued through Lincoln branches to help with cashflow problems caused by a fall in real estate prices and exacerbated by the costs, running to more than \$26 million, of the 13-month investigation into Lincoln.

Keating says the use of the word "risky" is ridiculous. Sweeping his hands



Charles Keating Jr, top, and Judge Lance Ito who conducted his trial

towards the grid network of comfortable homes trimmed with evergreen lawns across Phoenix, he says: "As a large housing contractor we were very successful, and housing has now been very profitable. If you don't take some risks then you won't make money." He cites the Phoenixian, which grossed more than \$110 million this year.

There was also the 20 per cent share of Sir James Goldsmith's GOIL (Gen-

eral Oriental Investments Limited). One of the assets was in Newmont Mining. "We had 20 per cent of Jimmy's 50 per cent in Newmont Mining and Newmont Gold," said Keating. He cites a Phoenix land inventory worth \$800 million in April 1989 before federal seizure. "That land has gone through the ceiling and junk bonds are gold," he says.

Without necessarily agreeing with

the theory supported by the fact that this case was not treated as a white-collar crime, Keating was described by prosecutors as a trophy prisoner and incarcerated alongside "drug barons and IRA terrorists convicted of attempting to export weapons to Britain—some real rough cookies".

It was certainly not the kind of world Keating was used to. He donated millions of dollars every year, mainly to Catholic causes for the sick and homeless, and was a fearsome anti-pornography campaigner. He also sponsored thousands of children from New York ghettos through the De La Salle Academy, and two vast swimming programmes that gave scholarships to hundreds of talented but impoverished youngsters.

While Keating appears to harbour no grudge, he is clearly angry that assets were sold by liquidators at "bargain-basement" prices. For example, Kuwaiti investors were said to have bought the Phoenixian for about 25 per cent of its true market value.

"They just came along and took everything I had," said the man who paid for his college education and graduation as an attorney by cleaning sewers at night. "But I'm gonna try and do it all over again."

Whether there will be another trial will be decided in court on January 16. FBI investigators have already begun the task of rounding up prosecution witnesses from the first trial. Stephen Neal, Keating's lawyer, is confident of a different result. He intends to call defence witnesses who would not come forward at the first trial because the judge refused to grant immunity, even though prosecution witnesses such as Judy Wischer, former president of ACC, testified under a plea agreement and so avoided prison.

Keating is sanguine. "I hope there isn't another trial and I don't expect one. But I'll face whatever comes. You gotta be somewhere."

Mother Teresa and Sir James Goldsmith figured in the financier's past



Eric Reguly on how Channel 5 brought March launch into focus

Interference has almost cleared

THIS time it is for real. David Elstein, the chief executive of Channel 5, is promising that Britain's newest and last terrestrial broadcaster will make its debut on March 30.

Advertisers and potential viewers can be forgiven for any scepticism. Earlier this year, Channel 5's shareholders—Pearson and United News & Media, both of Britain, and CLT of Luxembourg—said that the channel would launch by the end of this month.

When Mr Elstein, 52, the former head of programming for BSkyB, landed at Channel 5 in September, he said February was the better bet. Only an act of God, he said, will delay the launch past March.

Mr Elstein is confident because the effort to return millions of TVs and video recorders so they can receive interference-free transmission without interference begins.

A change in strategy has

allowed the returners to work more efficiently. Some bright engineers discovered that many homes in the channel's broadcast areas are immune to interference. To determine which ones, they simply conduct a test transmission and wait for the switchboard to light up with calls from complainers.

The returners visit the homes with interference problems and the rest are ignored.

"We learned that we had

been returning far too many homes," said Mr Elstein. "By making appointments and returning only the homes that need it, we are increasing our safety margin."

The returning blitz has not

come cheaply. Channel 5's owners initially expected to spend about £60 million on returning.

Virtually all of the programming is in place for the first year—all it needs now is viewers

Some bidders for the Channel 5 franchise, including BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster 40 per cent owned by News International, publisher of *The Times*, believed the figure to be laughably low. Pearson later admitted that the bill would climb to about £100 million. The latest estimate is about £150 million. The higher figure partly re-

flects the extra homes in the channel's broadcast area. The number went from ten million to 14 million in September, when the Government awarded Channel 5 an extra broadcast frequency. The shareholders expect to recoup the extra returning costs by delivering a larger audience to advertisers. But they still expect the channel to break even sometime in 1999.

With the returning largely under control, Mr Elstein is spending more time on ensuring that the programming schedule is in place. In October he signed a \$10 million deal with Columbia Tristar, the Hollywood studio, for 14 releases ranging from TV film premieres to mini-series.

Two weeks ago, it signed another deal with 20th Century Fox, the studio owned by The News Corporation. The price was not disclosed, but it is thought to have been about \$40 million. In exchange, Channel 5 received the British terrestrial rights to the studio's recent box-office hits, including *Independence Day*, *Mrs Doubtfire*

and *Mighty Morphin Power Rangers*. Those contracts alone appear to have eaten up almost half of Channel 5's relatively tiny £100 million programming budget, but more money has magically appeared. Mr Elstein entered the bidding for *ER* and *Friends*, the enormously popular Warner Bros programmes, when the British rights, held by Channel 5, in partnership with BSkyB, is thought to have bid \$90 million or so but was trumped by a \$100 million offer from Channel 4.

Mr Elstein said the share-

holders would have stumped up the funds because of the advertising revenue the programmes could have generated. Nevertheless, virtually all of Channel 5's programming is in place for the first year. All it needs now is viewers. Mr Elstein thinks the market's forecast of a market share between 5 and 7 per cent is realistic. He said: "This will not be a crisis Christmas for me. I think we're in good shape."



ANTHONY HARRIS

Why Greenspan's pension warning includes you

his claim to innocence, thrift industry sources confirm some of what he says and have long questioned the role of regulators in the thrift crisis and their handling of Lincoln. Of the 75 people targeted for investigation, none beyond Keating was indicted. "As such, we hadn't a hope of having any one of those 74 testify for us," says Keating.

His supporters say that they have been witnesses to a persecution. Judge John Davies, who was an Olympic swimming champion for Australia in 1956, granted Keating bail from prison in October for his case to be heard at appeal. Keating was a swimmer himself and his son, Charles Keating III, or C3 (whose lesser conviction over Lincoln has since been quashed), finished fifth in Britain's David Wilkie in the 200 metres breast stroke at the 1976 Olympic Games. Keating's son-in-law, Gary Hall, was runner-up to Mark Spitz in 1972, and his grandson, also Gary Hall, won medals at Atlanta.

Keating used ACC to buy Lincoln in 1984 when the Reagan administration brought in the Garn-St Germain Act to free up investment laws to stimulate a thrift industry that was already incurring losses. Lincoln incurred a \$4m loss in 1984 but, after Keating stepped in, showed profits of \$79 million in 1985 and \$41 million in 1987.

The Federal Home Loans Bank Board, the regulatory body for thrifts, has been accused by the accountants, John Archison, a former partner in Arthur Young and director of ACC, of operating "far outside the boundaries of their knowledge", while the Bush administration is said to have been regulating the industry even as bids for newly deregulated S&Ls were being processed. Keating says: "They changed the rules and then regretted their decision. Meanwhile I put a lot of money into Lincoln."

That he appears to have been a scapegoat is backed up, in part, by the testimony to the Senate Banking Committee of Rosemary Stewart, the chief enforcement lawyer for the regulator. She alleged there had been leaks and a vendetta attitude by members of our agency with respect to Lincoln... never in my 15 years of service had I observed a similar situation or such indiscretion".

The theory is supported by the fact that this case was not treated as a white-collar crime. Keating was described by prosecutors as a trophy prisoner and incarcerated alongside "drug barons and IRA terrorists convicted of attempting to export weapons to Britain—some real rough cookies".

It was certainly not the kind of world Keating was used to. He donated millions of dollars every year, mainly to Catholic causes for the sick and homeless, and was a fearsome anti-pornography campaigner. He also sponsored thousands of children from New York ghettos through the De La Salle Academy, and two vast swimming programmes that gave scholarships to hundreds of talented but impoverished youngsters.

While Keating appears to harbour no grudge, he is clearly angry that assets were sold by liquidators at "bargain-basement" prices. For example, Kuwaiti investors were said to have bought the Phoenixian for about 25 per cent of its true market value. "They just came along and took everything I had," said the man who paid for his college education and graduation as an attorney by cleaning sewers at night. "But I'm gonna try and do it all over again."

Whether there will be another trial will be decided in court on January 16. FBI investigators have already begun the task of rounding up prosecution witnesses from the first trial. Stephen Neal, Keating's lawyer, is confident of a different result. He intends to call defence witnesses who would not come forward at the first trial because the judge refused to grant immunity, even though prosecution witnesses such as Judy Wischer, former president of ACC, testified under a plea agreement and so avoided prison.

Keating is sanguine. "I hope there isn't another trial and I don't expect one. But I'll face whatever comes. You gotta be somewhere."

BUSINESS LETTERS

Global free trade affects not only producers in Third World areas

From Mr Anthony G. Phillips
Sir, Anita Roddick (Myth behind the idea of an unfettered local economy, November 21) correctly identifies poor Third World producers as among those who suffer as a result of unfettered global free trade. But virtually everyone in this country suffers too. By importing cheap manufactured goods from the other side of the globe, we have also imported massive unemployment in major industries in this country which are quite capable of making equivalent high quality items.

We have such absurdities as yoghurt being trucked here daily from Greece. British consumers being trucked to Paris, fresh Scottish seafood being hauled down to coastal areas of France etc etc. All this makes a profit (often marginal) for those involved and contributes to GDP, but the hidden costs in terms of congestion, pollution and sheer waste are often ignored.

Yet, as consumers, we can easily vote with our purse and wallets. Do we really need such a vast choice of consumer goods, and if so, can we not choose those produced in UK, preferably locally?

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY G. PHILLIPS,
32 Upper Street,
Salisbury, Wiltshire.

all late payments of income tax but does not add interest to the return of overpayments of tax even when, as in our case, the repayments are substantial and almost a year late.

The need for the Government to have a legal obligation to be even-handed in such matters is long overdue. Yours faithfully,
S.J. REDSTONE,
Kemsdown Road,
Roehampton, SW15.

WORLDCOVER

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TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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NETTIES UNI



■ THEATRE 1

Richard Eyre looks back with affection at a decade of success running the National



■ THEATRE 2

Griff Rhys Jones and other stars light up the gala opening of the refurbished Cambridge Arts



SALLY SCAMON

THE TIMES ARTS



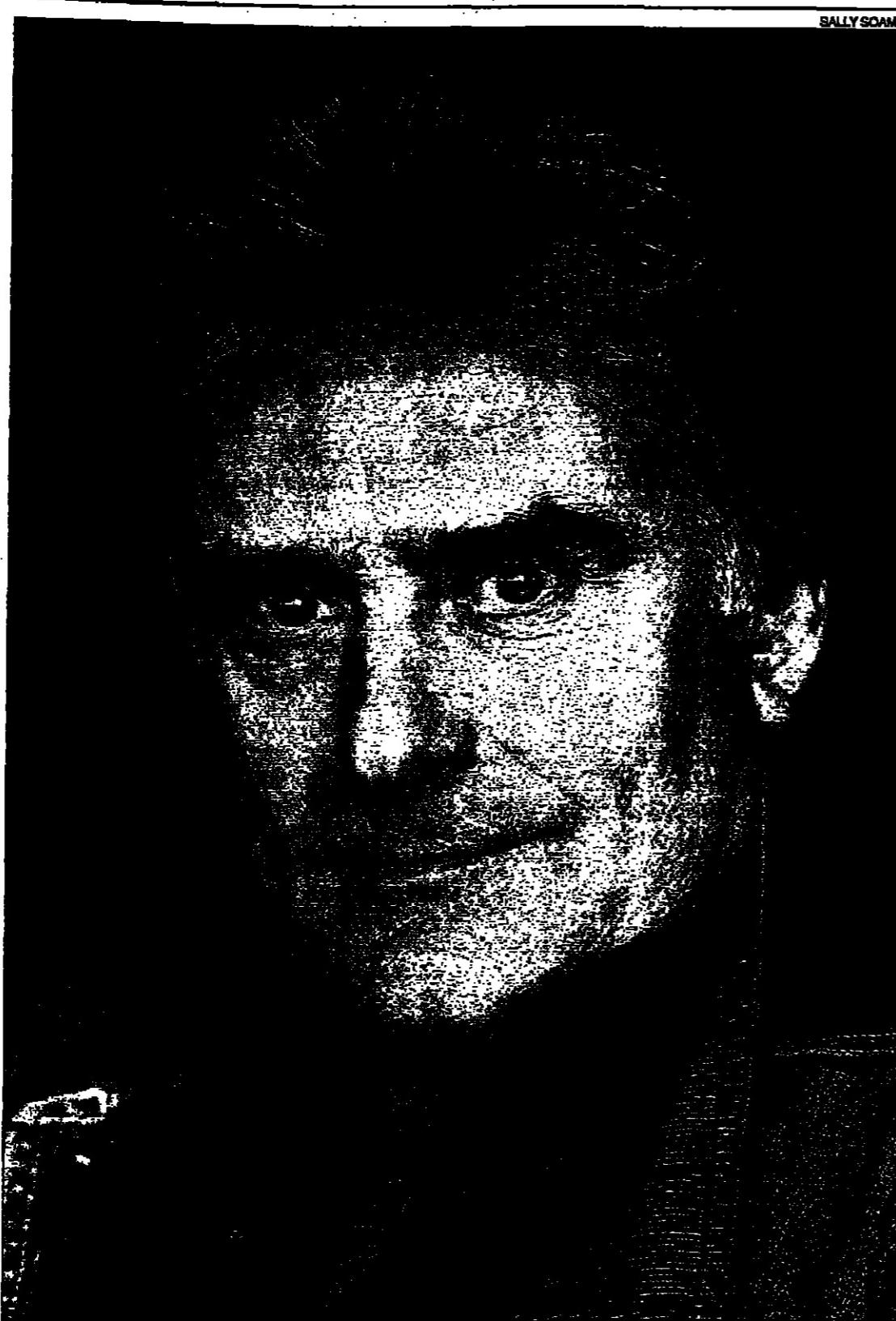
■ RISING STAR

Today, Orkney; tomorrow, the world: folk fiddler Jennifer Wrigley prepares to spread her wings



■ TOMORROW

Canine capers: reviews of Glenn Close in *101 Dalmatians*, and all the other new movies



Richard Eyre: "I'd rather risk design overkill than imaginative underkill. My feeling is, let's use every device"

With a song and a dance

This evening Robert Lepage's *Elsinore*, a one-man version of a play that normally finds place for a cast of 25, reopens a theatre that has been rebuilt in all directions, ie. upwards, downwards and sideways, which in dramatic terms is pretty much how Lepage treats *Hamlet*.

The Cambridge Arts Theatre was founded by John Maynard Keynes and David Rylands 60 years ago, and its structure was in dire need of being brought up to date. Some of the original planning was undertaken in a haphazard fashion. The orchestra pit was designed for the 39-strong orchestra of Sadler's Wells

and its dimensions determined by chalking circles around the conductor as he simulated the playing of each instrument in King's College Dining Hall.

The doors closed to public performance three years ago and within a few months the interior was a large hole. Now, £8 million later, including one of the earliest National Lottery grants, the hole has become a warm and efficiently air-conditioned auditorium, panelled with cherrywood (from the Raneyvskaya estate, perhaps).

At Sunday's gala opening Barry Brown, architect of the new theatre, sometime president of the Footlights and owner of an impressive roccoco

Gala Opening Arts Theatre, Cambridge

fumiest of the sequences in her one-woman show *Dickens' Women*. The woman here was Mrs Corney, gushing and frolicsome, being proposed to by an immensely self-satisfied Mr Bumble.

Then it was time for operas from Mozart, Puccini et al and, since a tenor and a baritone were on hand, a duet to do with pearls and fishers. Choristers from King's College sang settings of Shakespeare, and sixth-formers from local schools hurtled us through the Brecht/Weill *Happy End*, though I'd have preferred a couple of complete numbers instead of a frustrating nibble at several.

Finally, it was Griff Rhys Jones, giggling at the absurdity of the song he had chosen, a country and western parody about a cowpoke who, well, poked cows. The occasion was a proper mixture of the light and the heavy, amateur and professional, faithful to the Keynes vision, except that this time no one needed to draw any chalk circles to realise it.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Jolly japes for all

"WE'RE ready for good times in London tonight," sings the chorus, a doughty group of Londoners during the Blitz. Since *Dick Daredevil* is a pastiche of Forties fictions, they must endure a few more frights before they are granted their wish. Romances, radio adventure serials and Broadway musicals provide the raw material for writer Phil Willmott and composer Steven Markwith. This occasions some fairly extraordinary turns of event for the good Londoners, in particular, young Billy Spratt, a devotee of the mighty *Dick Daredevil Adventure Hour* on the wireless. How thrilling for Billy that his hero is transported to Earth to help out with a case of Nazi spying. How frightening that he is removed to the planet Zarg, where he performs some heroic

More remarkable still, however, is that the show features a cast of 27 accompanied by a four-piece band. The Drill Hall is by no means London's smallest studio space, but it counts as an unaccustomed luxury to have so many people

singing at such close range. Willmott directs neatly and Denise Range's choreography ensures that they fall over each other only at the appropriate moments.

You might expect such a musical to be faced with the ironies of the Nineties, but Willmott's tone is so affectionate that there isn't much to separate *Dick Daredevil* from the forebears it draws upon. This is a show without cynicism, which also means that it recycles virtually all the wartime platitudes.

When the plot warms up the company serves it well. The charms of the piece are embodied by its comic-book adventures.

The publicity claims that the show is suitable for those aged six and upwards. You'd only quibble if you felt such old-fashioned fun was rather rose-tinted for youngsters today.

With the Psion 3c you can send faxes,

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

ANDY LAVENDER

The guy who grew up at the National

Benedict Nightingale talks to Richard Eyre about his decade directing the NT

Hanging on the wall of Richard Eyre's office at the National Theatre is a framed letter signed "very concerned, Tunbridge Wells", but actually penned by the cartoonist Raymond Briggs. "You must not become a boring civil servant," it says. "IT IS DEATH." And by way of emphasising that Eyre should not, cannot take the theatre's top job, there is a skull and crossbones above the signature.

Well, the Eyre who retires as the National's director next September does not look like a corpse, still less a civil servant, nor does he feel that he should have listened to the Cassandras in 1988. He is a bit greyer, as a 53-year-old has a right to be, and a little tired, as he certainly should be after a long rehearsal of the revival of *Gigs and Dolls* that opens on Tuesday. But eight-odd years spent working 12-hour days, producing some 150 plays, directing 20 of them himself, and ensuring he will hand on a solvent, buoyant National to Trevor Nunn, have not dimmed that furrowed, diffident enthusiasm of his.

And his last months at the National will certainly be eventful. He will direct new plays by David Hare (*Amy's View*, next June) and, if it is finished, by Tom Stoppard (about A.E. Housman). He will also stage *King Lear*, with Ian Holm. And he will oversee the temporary conversion of the Olivier into an 800-seat theatre-in-the-round for productions of *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* and *Marat/Sade*. If that experiment succeeds it could have far-reaching implications for this dauntingly large theatre.

After that? Well, though Eyre looks forward to some "thinking time", he is also mulling over plans to write books, stage the odd play and make a film of Dickens's *Our Mutual Friend*. What will he miss most? Not the hustle, not "the racing in order to stand still", but the camaraderie

and, in a way, the power. The first of these regrets will not surprise anybody who has observed Eyre's efforts to ensure that his South Bank "Oz" is more about people and plays than committees and concrete. Working harmoniously with colleagues is "the highest form of human activity, a microcosm of what we try to achieve in a family and a relationship".

But power? Eyre may exude what his predecessor, Peter Hall, called a "shy strength", but he

call designer theatre. Still, I'd rather risk design overkill than imaginative underkill. If there's been a unifying factor in what we've done it's been a belief in the power of the theatre, by which I mean those characteristics of the theatre that can't be translated into any other medium."

Another criticism of Eyre may be that he has failed to create a distinctive company at the National. But as Hall also found, ensembles are hard to reconcile

with the need to weave 15 plays a year in and out of three very different auditoriums. "And I'd argue that we have a de facto ensemble. By next September Judi Dench will have spent five of the last ten years at the National."

Dench, David Hare, Katie Mitchell and many other creative talents have profited from Eyre's National, and he feels he has profited from it, too. The theatre has, he says, forced him to overcome his natural reticence, grow up, and take responsibility for difficult, sometimes unpopular decisions. So why, then, does he want to go?

"I've been here for nearly ten years, and that's a decade of my tastes and my choices. Change is good for the organisation, good for the public and good for me. I'd hate to outstay my welcome."

Oddly, he does not remember money, or the lack of it, as being the greatest of his problems. Every June, he says, he told his board there were financial disasters ahead, and every time the theatre muddled through. But his stoicism is tempered by dismay at the effects of the rising seat prices

that have kept the National afloat. "I'm afraid the social base of our audiences is less broad than it was even in the early 1970s, and that troubles me, because art should be available to everyone."

That is one problem Eyre is regretfully handing over to his successor. Another is that Trevor Nunn will have to face is that most younger directors are eager to work in the little Coesloe, but find the Lyttelton impersonal and the Olivier's 1,200-seat amphitheatre intimidating. "It's partly a generational thing," says Eyre. "But it's true that the Olivier is a vast volume to fill, and it takes a huge amount of physical and emotional energy to fill it. Without that and a minimum of 700 in the audience, the event doesn't occur."

On the evidence of Eyre's original staging of the show, back in 1982, this will not be a problem with *Gigs and Dolls*. It may not be his last production as National director, but it should be his biggest and most ebullient. The practical reason he is restaging it is that the National needs a Christmas money-spinner, but the more personal one is that he warms to its good-hearted handling of love and reconciliation. "It's one of the English-speaking world's great romantic comedies."

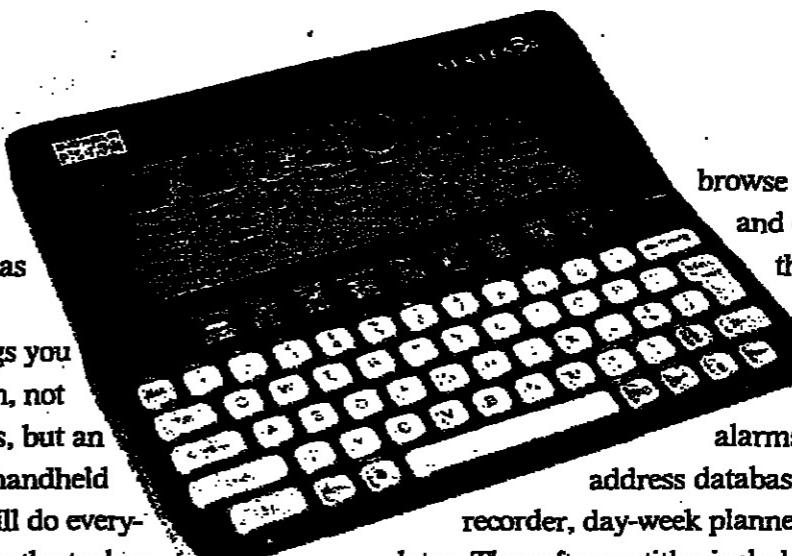
With Henry Goodman and Imelda Staunton replacing Bob Hoskins and Julia Mackenzie as the gamester and his moll, Eyre hopes for a more edgy, 1990s feel. With the more complete performers who are currently emerging from drama school, he hopes the singing and dancing will be more professional. And then, of course, there are Frank Loesser's songs. "You can't separate the melody from the lyrics or the wit from the feeling. In an ideal world I'd have thought of something new for Christmas, but I couldn't, so I went for something I love."

■ *Gigs and Dolls* opens at the Olivier on Dec 17 (0171-928 2252)

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THE TIMES

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HOW TO ENTER

Call 0891 300 361 with the missing
word from the following poem:

"It is Christmas Day in the
And the cold bare walls are bright
With garlands of green and holly,
And the place is a pleasant sight:
For with clean-washed hands and faces,
In a long and hungry line
The paupers sit at the tables
For this is the hour they dine."

Winners will be chosen at random from all correct entries received by midnight tonight. Normal Times
Newspapers Ltd competition rules apply. Calls cost (per minute) 45p cheap rate, 50p at all other times.

CHANGING TIMES



CHOICE 1
Jonathan Miller
directs *A
Midsummer
Night's Dream*
VENUE: Opens tonight
at the Almeida Theatre



CHOICE 2
... while Adrian
Noble brings
Ibsen's *Little
Eyolf* to the stage
VENUE: Now in preview
at the Swan, Stratford

THE ARTS



OPERA
Gilbert and
Sullivan updated:
the "Grand Hotel"
Mikado returns
to the Coliseum
for Christmas



MUSIC
Bernard Haitink
conducts a
polished night
of Bruckner,
including the
stirring *Te Deum*

LONDON

LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA The acclaimed panel Andreas Schif joins the orchestra under Bernard Haitink for a performance of Mahler's Ninth Symphony and a concert of Shostakovich's powerful Symphony No 4. Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 7.30pm.

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM Jonathan Miller directs his first play in Britain for years. An interesting cast is headed by Norman Radley and Angela Thorne as the royal immortals, with Peter Bayless as Bottom. Set designs by the Cuckoo Brothers. Almeida Theatre, Almeida St (0171-399 4044). Open: tonight, 7pm; Then Monday, 7.30pm; mat. Sat., 3.30pm.

THE MIKADO Jonathan Miller's conductor production of the Gilbert and Sullivan operetta returns to the Coliseum. David Pountney's set designs the musical, with Richard Stilgoe singing the title role, supported by a cast including Richard Stilgoe, James Kelly, Bonaventura Bottone and Richard Van Allan. Coliseum, Drury Lane (0171-399 4044). Open: tonight, 7pm; Then Monday, 7.30pm; mat. Sat., 3.30pm.

THE OFFICIAL TRIBUTE TO THE BLUES BROTHERS Another West End showing for the cult songsters by guys in

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts
and entertainment
compiled by Ian Hartlie

black dresses. David Hare's *Death of Apollo*, Stratford Avenue, W1 (0171-944 5070). Opens tonight, 7pm; Mon-Thurs, 8pm; Fri-Sat, 8pm, 9pm.

ELSEWHERE

READING The Dorby Playhouse, Parsons Green co-production of *Pow! Pow!*. Adam Pennington's new comedy arrives here for one night only. Inspired by the playwright's own brief but bloody boxing career, the work takes a fresh look at the resilience of the sport and the people involved in it. Henry Fawcett circus.

ARTS CENTRE 21 South Street (0119 859 1591). Tonight, 8pm.

BIRMINGHAM Daniel Harding conducts the Royal Birmingham Conservatory Young Music Group as part of a collaboration with Birmingham Royal Ballet in a programme of Ravel, Debussy, Weber and Stravinsky. The choirs of the Royal Birmingham Conservatory Singers. Symphony Hall, Broad Street (0121-212 3333). Tonight, 7.30pm.

LIVERPOOL The Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra under Paul

McGrath is joined by mezzo-soprano Catherine Wyn-Rogers and tenor Anthony Rolfe Johnson in a programme featuring Mahler's Das Lied von der Erde as well as music by Haydn and Janáček.

PHILHARMONIC HALL, Hope Street (0151-703 7799). Tonight, 7.30pm.

STRATFORD UPON AVON Adrian Noble directs Joanne Pearce and Robert Glenister in much in Little Eyolf, the latest of Ibsen's last plays to reveal its subtleties.

SEVERN, Waterside (0179 256252). Preview from tonight, 7.30pm. Open: Dec 18, 7pm. In rep w/ Henry VIII (0179 256252).

PREVIEWS From tonight, 7.30pm. In rep w/ Henry VIII (0179 256252).

WILLIAM CHAMBERS Architect to George III (0171-873 2528). **The Gallery in Cork Street**, London, Palace of God (0171-873 2528). **Geoffrey Museum**: Christmas Party (0171-729 9893). **Herron**: *Wise Men Bring Good Hodden Parings* (0171-921 5144). **Kensington International Gallery**: Children's Art Through the Eyes of a Child — British and Chinese Children's Art (0181-960 1222). **British Open Ended**: new work from contemporary photography (0171-372 1300).

THEATRE GUIDE

JEREMY KINGSTON'S ASSESSMENT OF THEATRE SHOWING IN LONDON
■ House full, returns only
■ Some seats available
■ Seats at all prices

RICHMOND (0181-940 3633) Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; Sun, Thurs (Dec 19, Jan 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, 20, 27, 31, 4pm, Sat 4pm) Until February 15.

I LIKED IT SLAUGHTER'S DEODORANT Unapologetic title for Jim Cartwright's latest two-hander. Tim Pott and Maggie O'Neill play a broken man and a crass, acid-tongued streetwalker. Royal Court Theatre (0171-563 5000). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat. Thurs and Sat, 3pm.

JOHN GABRIEL BORGIA'S PAUL SCOTLAND Vanessa Redgrave, Helen Mirren and Michael Bryant, directed by Richard Eyre. A nightmarish tale for the season's penultimate, congealed with guilt, remorse and reconciliation.

National (Lyndhurst), South Bank, SE1 (0171-923 2222). Tues-Sun, 7.30pm; mat. Sat, 2.15pm.

JOHN GIBSON'S THE ELEVENTH COMMANDMENT Commissioned play from comedian David Schneider in which he plays a single man running from his past. He's the last man in the girl who's not nice and, Jesus Christ. Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre (01992 722 931). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat. Sat, 3.30pm.

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT Directed by David Schwimmer in which he plays a single man running from his past. He's the last man in the girl who's not nice and, Jesus Christ. Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre (01992 722 931). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat. Sat, 3.30pm.

THE HOUSE OF HOLLAND (0171-563 5000) Unseen comedy by a dysfunctional family, directed by Jodie Foster. With Holly Hunter and Robert Downey Jr. Curzon West End (0171-362 1723). Mon-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 2.30pm. Box office 6705. Screen on Baker Street (0171-936 2772). Screen on the Web (0171-435 3366). UCI Whitley (0990-888 990).

THE JINGLE ALL THE WAY (PG) Aggressively American Christmas comedy by Arnold Schwarzenegger, co-directed by a prima donna boy (John Goodman). In preview until Sat 12 Dec. Odeon: Kensington (01423 914655); Metzenehouse (01423 915683).

THE LAST OF THE BEASTS (18) Pres. by the Queen of Sheba. Satanic rampages that eventually become steam, from Spanish director Alex de la Iglesia (with Álex Angulo). Metro (0171-437 0575).

FEELING MINNESOTA (18) Unusual drama about two warring love interests. Karen Black and Vincent D'Onofrio. Director, Steven Bergman. Ritzy (0171-737 2121). Virgil (0171-737 1744). Screen (0171-434 0037). Warner (0171-437 4343).

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS (15) Unseen comedy by a dysfunctional family, directed by Jodie Foster. With Holly Hunter and Robert Downey Jr. Curzon West End (0171-362 1723). Mon-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 2.30pm. Box office 6705. Screen on Baker Street (0171-936 2772). Screen on the Web (0171-435 3366). UCI Whitley (0990-888 990).

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THE LAST OF THE HIGH KINGS (15) Pleasant coming-of-age saga set in Dublin, 1977. With Jared Leto and Sam Rockwell. RTÉ One (0171-434 0037). Warner (0171-437 4343).

THE LYRIC (15) The last of the high kings. With Jared Leto and Sam Rockwell. RTÉ One (0171-434 0037). Warner (0171-437 4343).

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THE LYRIC (15) The last of the high kings. With Jared Leto and Sam Rock



■ FILM

The Trekkers come out to welcome the latest cinematic venture of the Starship Enterprise



■ RECITALS 1

Crossing over: Anne Sofie von Otter puts her Lieder to one side to sing new songs by Elvis Costello



■ RECITALS 2

... and the Wigmore Hall also enjoys Thomas Hampson paying bicentenary tribute to Carl Loewe



■ OFFER

Special prices on tickets to Matthew Hart's dance work: see the Theatre Club panel

Enterprise culture for one-trek minds

FILM: Debra Craine boldly goes where millions have gone before, into the ever-expanding *Star Trek* universe

It's time to "out" myself. As dance critic of *The Times* I spend my evenings in the theatre captivated by the spectacle of decorous ladies in tutus being wooed by noble lords in tights. But later, in the privacy of my own living room, I indulge in a very different sort of spectacle — that of Starfleet officers and Klingon warriors, transporter beams and holodeck theme parks, phasers, wormholes and warp drive. For in my other life I am a closet Trekker, an armchair traveller in the *Star Trek* universe.

I am not alone. There are millions more like me, resident in more than 100 countries, devotees of four different *Star Trek* television series, loyal followers of seven *Star Trek* films and happy consumers in a \$1 billion global industry. We buy the mugs, the starship telephones, the glow-in-the-dark watches, the communicator key rings, the videos and the *Star Trek* Barbie dolls. We support a massive publishing industry, everything from *The Klingon Dictionary* to *The Star Trek Encyclopedia*. There are more than 70 million *Star Trek* books in print available in more than 15 languages, including Chinese, Norwegian and Hebrew; 13 *Star Trek* books are sold every minute.

We attend *Star Trek* conventions held every weekend of every year; we read *Hamerl* translated into Klingon; we even buy our groceries with a *Star Trek* credit card. And according to the British Psychological Society, our addiction is akin to smoking or alcoholism. Take away our books and our videos and we go off the rails.

Yet the Trekker phenomenon had a modest beginning. The original series, the so-called "classic" *Star Trek*, was devised by Gene Roddenberry and was first aired in America on September 8, 1966. A low-budget, modest affair, it ran for just 79 episodes, axed after three years because of poor ratings. But *Star Trek* was the show that

wouldn't die. Endless syndicated repeats gave birth to an indefatigable underground cult; then in 1979 came the first Hollywood film, and in 1987 *The Next Generation*, the first of three spin-off television shows.

And now there is a new *Star Trek* film to fuel our obsession in its 30th anniversary year. *Star Trek*:



• *Star Trek* has endured because it provides a vision of hope

JONATHAN FRAKES

First Contact, which opens in Britain on Friday, features Patrick Stewart (a former RSC actor) as Jean-Luc Picard, captain of the Enterprise E, leading his crew into battle against the machine-like Borg, a confrontation that takes both sides back to the day in 2063 when Earth first made contact with beings from outer space.

The film took \$60 million in its first ten days of release in America, making No 8 the biggest grossing *Star Trek* film ever. It features the cast of *The Next Generation*, the most successful of the telly spin-offs.

(*Deep Space Nine* and *Voyager* are the other two), and it is also the best, thanks to imaginative scriptwriting, high production values, and the skills of Jonathan Frakes, who injects a good deal of humour into the proceedings both as actor and director.

What is it about Gene Roddenberry's simplistic view of life in outer space that continues to inspire us 30 years after the former airline pilot pitched his idea to sceptical TV executives? Is it the warm-hearted liberalism of the Enterprise crew? The optimism of a Utopian universe where diplomacy triumphs over discord and where good guys always win and bad guys always lose? Or is it the perennial lure of science fiction, the need to believe we are not alone in the galaxy?

Frakes, who stars as Picard's sidekick Commander Riker, places his faith in the "feel-good" factor. "*Star Trek* has endured because it provides us with a vision of hope for the future," he says.

"When I auditioned for the television show nine years ago, Gene told me that in the 24th century there will be no hunger, no greed, and all the children will know how to read. Well given what's going on in Bosnia and elsewhere, the world is in such an appealing state. Many of the people who watch the show would be likely to have such a future. And we don't apologize for that optimism."

Indeed, there are even those who will argue the case for *Star Trek* as a shaper of moral values. Right from the beginning, the Roddenberry ethos was defined by its unashamedly humanism. That is what's so healthy about the show," says Frakes. "It is anti-racism, anti-sexism, anti-violence. The objective was always to make some kind of statement about honour and respect for human life. I think that without a doubt it has done some good; it has spoken to people. At the heart of it has always been a moral imperative."

Lofty ideals for a mere entertainment, one might counter. Yet the evangelical fervour of some of its adherents suggests that Trekdom is often dangerously close to religious passion. "It would make Gene Roddenberry turn in his grave," says Frakes. "He consciously avoided discussing religion at all costs. But, you know, there are far worse things to believe in."

And believers embrace an unusually wide spectrum of society.

"You find *Star Trek* fans in the unlikeliest places: brain surgeons, scientists like Stephen Hawking, who came and did a show with us, even our President, big Bill Clinton. He is such a *Star Trek* fan that we once had to record a birthday message for him in our uniforms on the bridge of the Enterprise."

Yet for all its success, there is one thing *Star Trek* has never enjoyed: the approbation of the critical establishment. "We were snubbed by the Emmys," laments Frakes. "The *Next Generation* won for make-up and hair and special effects, but never for the acting or the scripts. It's the science fiction curse. The genre is just not respected as highbrow or arty enough, even though we tell imaginative, intelligent stories with a healthy respect for the language."

But *Star Trek* may yet have its moment on the perch of high art. According to Frakes, Jerry Gold-

smith, the man who created the theme for *The Next Generation* and wrote the music for *First Contact*, has been approached to write a *Star Trek* opera. Ridiculous? Maybe. But opera loves the grandeur of mythology, the broad sweep of morality, and the uplift of redemptive promise. And if there's one denizen of popular culture which harbours such aspirations, that one is *Star Trek*. Even if it is only a television show.

RECITALS: Celebrating Carl Loewe's bicentenary; plus, Anne Sofie von Otter joins forces with the Brodsky Quartet

THE songwriting talents of the unjustly neglected Carl Loewe have already been brought to our attention in his bicentenary year with a flurry of recordings and live performances. Loewe's dramatic ballads were firm favourites in the Wagner household — indeed, Wagner used to sing them himself regularly — though it is significant that he believed the poetry made more impact than the music.

Celebrating Loewe's 200th birthday just seven days after the event, Thomas Hampson chose to illustrate a less familiar side of the composer, with a group of seven lyrical songs. Bringing to them the heightened dramatic response and alertness to verbal inflection that always characterise his readings, Hampson made a strong case for further investigation of this oeuvre. The anger at the death of loved ones in *Die Überfahrt*, the veiled quality of *Traumlicht*, the rapt contemplation of *Über allen Gipfeln ist Ruh*: all were projected as tellingly by this master lieder singer as the

Ballads from a master

Hampson/Rieger
Wigmore Hall

group of Schubert songs that followed.

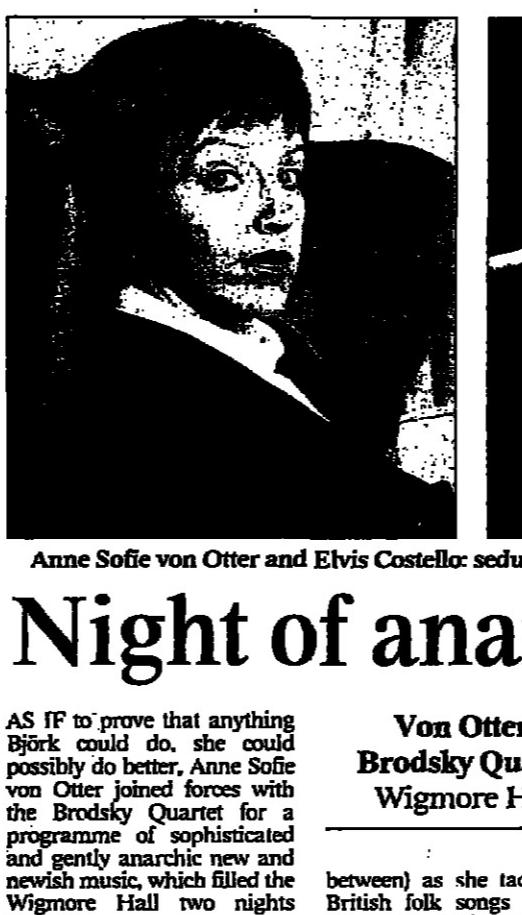
But Hampson is a conscientious scholar too. His wish to see the autograph manuscript of Schumann's *Dichterliebe* cycle — which has in fact not survived — led him on a fascinating trail. Schumann originally wrote not 16 but 20 songs for *Dichterliebe*. Four were published only posthumously, and it is still not entirely clear why they were omitted from the cycle.

Hampson and his collaborator Renate Hilmar-Voit point out that the rejected songs have texts that deal with

the darker side of dreams and fairy-tale, which may give us a clue as to Schumann's reading of Heine. Furthermore, the 16 familiar songs in the original version show differences in a number of details. This makes the performance of that version worthwhile, though I would be hard put to say that any of the discrepancies were improvements: the sighing appoggiaturas of *Im wunderschönen Monat Mai*, for example, were sadly missed.

Possibly Hampson's unusually almost self-indulgently slow tempi for that song, as well as for *Aus meinen Tränen* and *Am leuchtenden Sommernorgen*, were justified by the various instructions to the performers that apparently adorn the original version. For the rest, he raged, whispered, yearned and wept, exploring every expressive device in the book. Wolfram Rieger's accompaniments, if a little vulnerable technically, were strongly characterised.

BARRY MILLINGTON



Anne Sofie von Otter and Elvis Costello: seductive rendition of disappointed lives

Night of anarchic song

AS IF to prove that anything Björk could do, she could possibly do better, Anne Sofie von Otter joined forces with the Brodsky Quartet for a programme of sophisticated and gently anarchic new and newish music, which filled the Wigmore Hall two nights running.

Von Otter has never been one for paddling steadily up the Lieder singers' mainstream: the turbulent waters against which she chooses to brace herself have included both Nordic rarities and British barrack-room ballads.

England is, indeed, virtually her adopted land. Having spent most of her childhood in London as the daughter of a Swedish diplomat, she clearly found time to tune her precocious ear to a dialect or two, and of late every London recital has seen her trying out a new one.

On Friday it was the turn of East Anglia and Scotland (with a touch of Danish in

between) as she tackled five British folk songs by Percy Grainger, their accompaniments arranged pliantly for string quartet by Julian Jacobson and by the Brodsky's own violin, Paul Cassidy.

Von Otter went on to pay tribute to various other English muses. First came Respighi's setting of Shelley's *The Sunset (Il Tramonto)*, luscious with the afterglow of later Romanticism. It could have been written with von Otter's voice in mind. Then there was John Woolrich, honoured in his menacing and witty *The Devil and the Ploughman*.

The evening's most memorable first performance, though, was Peter Sellars' *Island Dreaming*, another von Otter/Brodsky commission. She and the Brodsky Quartet had commissioned *Three Distracted Women* from him.

These cameos — of a jealous understudy, a disappointed lover of independent means,

HILARY FINCH

Rhythmic magic

THEATREGOERS at the Barbican for *As You Like It* last weekend could scarcely believe their eyes. While the RSC conjured up the Forest of Arden on stage, the rest of the centre had undergone an even more remarkable transformation. A global village of stalls selling ethnic clothing, jewellery and crafts had sprung up in the foyers and galleries. Weird and wonderful sounds escaped from workshops held in every nook and cranny. Strangely-garbed people sat cross-legged on the floor of the bars and cafes while children ran amok. It was as if Glastonbury had materialised in one of London's more reverential halls of culture.

In fact it was Womad, the organisation set up by Peter Gabriel to bring music and dance from around the world to new audiences. Strangely, after 15 years holding events in exotic locations from St Mark's Square in Venice to the Australian outback, it was the first time Womad had come to London, and they took over the Barbican for three days.

As usual it was a varied and exciting bill of fare with the biggest names drawn mainly from Africa. Papa Wembo from Zaire offered turbocharged Afro-pop, sweaty dance music full of soukous rhythms. Thomas Mapfumo and Blacks Unlimited brought the more traditional sounds of chimurenga, built around the dense interplay of guitar and mbira, the African thumb piano. Salif Keita, the albino riot from Mali, was also in fine form, his high, passionate voice which tell of the epic struggles and tragedies of African history providing a fitting climax to the weekend.

Yet if African music was at the core of the festival, many of its most memorable moments were provided by musicians from other corners of the world. From Pakistan the Sabri Brothers gave a thrilling exhibition of qawwali, the devotional music of the Sufis. Rhythmic patterns of harmonium and tabla which sound repetitive, but in fact are constantly shifting, are overlaid with joyous voices. Yungchen Lhamo from Tibet offered more devotional music with her traditional Buddhist hymns. Without

instrumental accompaniment, the ethereal beauty of her voice hushed into respectful silence an audience which had mostly come to dance to the rhythms of Afro-pop.

In a weekend full of musical magic, however, two moments stood out. The first was the thunderous drums of the ancient royal court which closed the performance by Isonga. This was an astounding performance in its own right, a beacon of hope from a troubled continent.

The second was an extraordinary musical melting-pot from the Afro-Celt Sound System, which combined the haunting voice of Gaelic lament, the excitement of Senegalese talking drums, floating druidic harp and uilleann pipes and swirling modern dance patterns. They refused to quit the stage but no-one, except the harassed organisers, felt they had outstayed their welcome.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

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POP: The slow death of cabaret

Troupers' last post

for them, even if it is the Christmas party season. Douglas at least possesses an appealing line of self-deprecating banter, and his voice is still in melifluous shape almost 40 years after *Only Sixteen* went to the top of the charts. A *Teenager in Love* was reeled

off by the band; tributes were paid to Neil Sedaka and Bobby Darin.

The feisty Maughan returned for a joint assault on *Dancing In The Street*, *Dream Lover* and other oldies. The abiding memory, though, is of Douglas strolling among the audience during the climax of his set and finding the man nearest the stage had dozed off. Douglas deserved better; so does the Café Royal. CLIVE DAVIS

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Shortage of sellers forces up prices

Would-be buyers are back in numbers but houses are hard to find, reports Rachel Kelly

Estate agents are opening seven days a week to cope with demand from the booming housing market in the run-up to Christmas. In London and the South East, in particular, demand for family houses in the £100,000-£300,000 bracket has led to what the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) has called "panic" buying.

Mark Bachelor, a Gascoigne-Peas agent in Surrey, said offices were open in Weybridge, Richmond, Kingston, Putney, Twickenham and Teddington for buyers who had no other time to view properties. "We are selling to people who work long hours in town, and Sunday is often the only time that dual-income couples can see property. We are very busy with buyers wanting to look, but we haven't got enough properties to sell."

Geoff Hunt, of Barnard Marcus in Sheen, said: "Sunday has become a normal working day for estate agents."

Elsewhere in the country agents are opening in pockets where the market is busiest. Peter Waterson of Halifax Property Services in Beverley, in the East Riding of Yorkshire, said: "We are opening because we can't afford to miss the commercial opportunity."

Prices are already up 7.2 per cent on a year ago, Halifax figures show, and estate agents say that will continue into the new year. Analysts expect prices to rise a further 7 per cent next year.

Peter Rollings of Foxtons, confirms the pre-Christmas rush. Foxtons report that family houses in Battersea, Wandsworth, Putney and Chiswick, in southwest London, have already increased in value by 20 per cent over the last year. Period flats and houses in South Kensington, Fulham, Chelsea and Notting Hill are selling well.

"Usually we would expect people's minds to turn to Christmas shopping as opposed to shopping for houses," says Ivor Dickinson, of Douglas & Gordon. "Traditionally more appointments are cancelled last minute in December than all the other months put together, but it isn't the case this year; we are exceptionally busy. The number of offers made in the last month is up 25 per cent on last year."

Period properties in the Home Counties, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire are the best performers in the country market, says Patrick Ramsay, of Knight Frank. Prices are up 20 per cent for

upmarket country houses and smart London town houses, says the Halifax. But the boom has thrown up as many problems as it has solved. RICS estimates that though a million homeowners have been released from the trap of negative equity, those who try to move can find little to buy and are often gazumped.

The number of houses for sale is down by one third on last year from an average of 161 per estate agency in September 1995 to 112 in October this year, the lowest figure since December 1988, says Ian Perry of RICS. "People are buying, but they have nothing to sell. Either they are first-time buyers or they have been renting."

Tim Page-Ratcliffe, of Strutt & Parker in Lewes, East Sussex, said: "I have over 1,000 registered applicants for eight properties in the £250,000-plus range."

Hugh Dunsmore-Hardy, chief executive of the National Association of Estate Agents, says: "Almost 40 per cent of our members report that they have dealt with cases of gazumping. It is endemic in the middle ranges of the market for houses priced between £100,000 and £200,000 because of the lack of properties for sale."

The NAEA now receives two or three complaints a week, and the Labour Party last week said it would push for a system akin to that in Scotland where a deal is binding once an offer is accepted.

Mr Dunsmore-Hardy said desperate buyers could hire an agent to find a property on their behalf.

The very top and bottom ends of the market remain sluggish, as do pockets in the North and the North West. "Studio and badly converted flats bought by 1980s type buyers are now bypassed by first-time buyers," says Gary March from the Halifax.

Brock Hall, the £15 million stately home in Hertfordshire that was once the family home of the disgraced Lord Brocklebank, has been on the market since May; so has Aubrey House, in Notting Hill, west London, for £25 million. No 100 Cheyne Walk has been for sale for nearly a year, despite a £1.25 million price cut to £5 million.

RICS expects the market to calm down in the new year.

"An expected influx of properties will tend to temper price rises and restore a sense of proportion to the market," Mr Perry said. "In the meantime the best advice is to take time to find the right property."

MARTIN BEDFALL



Diana and Simon Ayrton with William and Polly outside their Wandsworth home, which quickly attracted a buyer

Gazumped at every turn

ANNABEL SALTER, 29, is desperately looking for somewhere bigger than her two-bedroom Battersea flat, but has been gazumped at every turn.

Ms Salter, of Douglas & Gordon's Chelsea lettings department, put her flat on the market in July for £64,500.

"In October I found a three-bedroom flat in Earlsfield for £17,000. It needed quite a bit of work, so I made an offer of £10,000, which was accepted. But a day or so later a cash buyer offered £15,000, so I knew it wasn't worth competing with them, as my flat was only under offer," she says.

"Two weeks later, my agent said he had found the perfect house at £128,950. I drove to the agent's to make an offer of £127,000, to be told someone else had just made an offer. I said I would increase my offer to the asking price, but they refused. I later tried to put in an offer for £131,000 but they wouldn't accept it."

Although there were only 18 shopping days till Christmas, people were shopping for houses, not presents, last Saturday. When Curchods estate agents, in Weybridge, Surrey, opened at 9am, the phones started ringing, as would-be buyers arranged viewings or wanted to know if there was anything new on its books. It was the climax of a week in which Mark Knight and his staff did as much business as in the whole of December 1995.

"More than 40 new buyers registered this week and we arranged more than 70 viewings. Last December we



Annabel Salter outside her two-bedroom flat in Battersea, which she put on the market in July for £64,500

Christmas sell-out in the housing market

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Timo and Johanna Hartikainen, both 30, are bankers, currently renting in Richmond. "We came in to Curchods on their way to an open house viewing. Mr Shore, 36, a building services engineer, and Mrs Shore, 31, an insurance manager, have been house-hunting for two months. "We want a four-bedroom detached house in Weybridge, up to £200,000. Most properties are too expensive, and there aren't enough on the market in our price range," said Mrs Shore. They have not put their three-bedroom terraced house on the market in case it sells before they find anything to buy.

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Erin Gage, 36, and Graham Lewis, 34, came down from Barnes to find out if there was any news on the three-bedroom house they hope to buy. Ms Gage and Mr Lewis, both British Airways cabin crew, have put in an offer on £130,000. "We looked in Barnes, but two sales fell through, and

everything became too expensive. One house was taken off the market at £130,000. It was worth £160,000, six months later. Decent properties in our price range go in less than two weeks," said Ms Gage.

Edward Thompson, 48, a conveyancing solicitor, is a would-be seller hoping to arrange a valuation for the five-bedroom Victorian house he currently rents out. "The market has picked up, and there is a great demand for large family houses," he says. "I hope to sell later in the new year."

AMANDA LOOSE

Winning through after a 20-year fight

Amanda Loose talks to the people who fought to save their Victorian houses from being demolished

After two years in temporary accommodation, the tenants of a Victorian row in Haverstock Hill, London, are back.

But their flats now look very different. When they left their homes were crumbling and almost beyond repair. Now, after 20 years of campaigning to save them from the bulldozers, they have been refurbished and restored to some of their former glory.

The houses were bought from Camden Council in 1993 by two housing associations which provide low-cost accommodation for those in serious need of housing – Circle 33 Housing Trust and Astra Greater London Housing Association.

The villas were acquired by Camden council in 1972 under a compulsory-purchase order, via the Department of Transport as part of a road-widening scheme. The squatters in Nos 112-124 decided to act.

In the 1860s, the houses have had a varied history. Some were used as a girls' school or a tyre-repair business, others were a centre for Bulgarian refugees.

In the 1950s, Geoffrey Gilbert, the photographer and botanist, who worked at Kew Gardens, lived at No 116, filling his garden with rare plants, many of which have survived.

The houses were blighted by the road-widening scheme, which was eventually dropped, says Steve Stokes of Circle 33. "The almost-derelict villas were kept alive by the efforts of the squatters, who already had strong connections with the local community. Many of them were artists who became local businessmen. They were personally committed to the houses," he says. Inspired by the success of Belpark, a co-operative which

had successfully campaigned for and refurbished other properties on Haverstock Hill, the residents formed Belpark II in 1980 and began to lobby Camden council.

Judith Allen started squatting at Haverstock Hill in 1989, and became involved with the legal aspects of the struggle to preserve the houses. "They were beautiful Victorian houses which had fallen into disarray. We felt that the odds were really stacked against us.

At the beginning there was a core group of ten of us. But we did have the support of the local Belsize residents and concentrated on being very positive," she says.

"After the purchase order the squatters decided to act"

and for 18 months they and the tenants met monthly to develop their plans. "At first, I don't think the Belpark II members believed it was going to happen. But after living there for 20 years and putting so much into the villas, they knew what they wanted," says Teresa Borsuk of Pollard Thomas & Edwards.

"They had been hard at it for a long time and had managed to provide an environment for themselves which worked very well. So, of course,

from the outset they wanted to retain the character of the villas, which wasn't always possible," she says.

The members of the co-operative were keen to maintain the spacious rooms and high ceilings as well as period fireplaces and flooring. The

members were also actively involved in the layout and design of their own flats.

"The interiors had to be gutted, but they had to satisfy everyone," says Ms Borsuk. "At times it was almost like having two separate clients.

Circle 33 were obviously concerned with financial restrictions and have particular requirements. We had to convince the co-operative that these would be beneficial," she says.

The housing associations obviously needed to provide as much accommodation as possible, and the architects devised an innovative way to



The restored facades of the Haverstock Hill houses

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CHANGING TIMES

Dreaming of a sunny Christmas

When demand exceeds supply

EVEN estate agents are having problems buying and selling their houses. Amanda Loose writes. Simon Ayrton, 34, and his wife Diana, are selling their Wandsworth home, which they bought in 1992 for £110,500, but cannot

find anything to buy.

Mr Ayrton, of Friend & Falcke in Belgravia, and his wife put their three-bedroom house on the market in September. "With two children, Polly, 6, and William, 4, we were looking for a house with more space. We put our house on the market for £169,500 and within two weeks we had a lot of interest, and three serious offers," he says.

But he is frustrated by the lack of property available. "We made an offer on somewhere in Tooting, and agreed terms, but the vendor withdrew. We have not exchanged contracts with our buyer who is happy to wait, but we will have to review the situation in the new year."

MORE than seven million people would move abroad if they won the National Lottery, a new Abbey National survey reveals. For most of us, the closest we can hope for is to rent somewhere for a couple of weeks during the Christmas holidays. South Africa in particular is becoming more popular as a source of Christmas houses to rent from Cape Dutch-style white stucco villas to farmer's cottages. "People want something different at Christmas now. Long-haul travel in general has become more popular in the last couple of years," says Sonia Burdin, a travel agent from the Maidenhead firm Euro Contacts International.

"Since 1995 when the country opened its doors to tourism, there has been much bad publicity about violence in the region, but we have many clients who return who really don't know what all the fuss is about. Tourists are perfectly safe in tourist areas," says Ms Burdin.

Basil van Blommenstein, from the South African Tourist Board, says Britain has always been the largest supplier of tourists to South Africa.

The numbers have swelled since the inauguration of Nelson Mandela. It is a "world in one" country, mountains, beaches, rivers and 350-old vineyards."

Vanessa Crear specialises in letting South African houses and still has some available on her books.

Pam Golding Properties are the biggest independent agents in South Africa, and can arrange rentals in the desirable areas Clifton, Hermanus and The Garden Route. Although they do not keep any properties on their books, they can connect interested parties with houses.

Others are seeking to rent in the Caribbean. The area's most fashionable houses have already been snapped up, including Princess Margaret's home on Mustique, for £4,350 a week, and Richard Branson's on the Virgin Islands, from £9,550 a day. Most agents have little left on their books, but two villas are available for rental this Christmas. With The Owners Syndicate, The Villa Grenadine in Fort Jeudy, Grenada, sleeps eight to ten, with a private swimming pool: £2,484 a week. The Plantation Beach Villas, Tobago has six three-bedroom villas at £2,303 a week, with a housekeeper cleaning service provided.

EMMA PARSONS

• Contact Pam Golding 0171-824 8909 and Vanessa Crear 01932 857122 for South African lettings and The Owners Syndicate 0181-767 7920 for details of the villas in the Caribbean.

Why cormorant report was shooting in the dark

Brian Clarke tries to repair some of the damage done to the image of angling by a misleading article

In all my years as an angler I have never known greater levels of frustration and anger than were generated by the reports last week claiming that anglers are engaged in the wholesale slaughter of cormorants.

Angling bodies, fishery owners and managers and countless ordinary anglers along the banks were appalled not only by the original story run by the *Angling Times*, but by the way this report was taken up by national newspapers, radio and television.

Everywhere the inference was that anglers themselves were doing the shooting; that organised bands of militants were roaming the countryside, blasting at every black bird in sight — and that large numbers of their fellows, if not actually doing it, supported it.

The focus of topical comment has now moved elsewhere, but dreadful damage has been left behind. Those images and headlines are deep in the public psyche. They may never be erased. In the minds of many, the image of angling as a harmless and rather dotty pursuit has been smeared.

The result, in the longer term, can be guessed at but not predicted. What is needed in the short term are facts. The first is that anglers are not going around shooting cormorants or anything else. The *Angling Times*, if deep in its editorial, made that clear. It was a group of "independent commercial" owners who were "taking the only option open" — shorthand for a tiny group of irresponsible coarse fishery owners.

Second, there are no large-scale "organised extermination squads" at work in fishery management itself, despite what some follow-up reports have suggested. There may be a few wild men out there, just as there are hotheads in most activities that involve human self-interest, but they are no more representative of fishery management than the rioters in Heysel stadium were representative of football. The *Angling Times* produced just one. Virtually all else was comment and hearsay based on that unidentified individual's remarks and claims.

Third, the claim by the *Angling Times* that a picture of man, a gun and a dead cormorant was "the picture



The cormorant has never been a threatened species in Britain and, until recently, numbers were controlled. Now winter numbers are rising rapidly inland.

every angler wants to see", was, quite simply, not true. The *Angling Times* does much excellent campaigning, often by provoking for effect, but this statement has outraged every leading angling body and the hundreds of thousands of fishermen they represent. Friends of disassociation from some of them appeared in *The Times* yesterday.

A few more facts. While, as in every other field of conservation, angling has its short-sighted fanatics, most anglers see nature in the round. Vast numbers of anglers are members of organisations such as the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Wildlife Trusts — as I am.

It is one of the great joys of angling that the sport takes those who practise it deep into the countryside and causes them to be quiet and still. There, unlike many users of the countryside, they see a great deal of the wild creatures around them. The highlight of many an angler's day is not the fish he catches, but the sight of a heron stalking through a silence of its own making, or the blue splinter that a kingfisher puts in his eye or — yes — even the sight of a cormorant backlit by the

sun, with beads of water bejewelling the edges of its outstretched wings.

Above all, anglers — who will do it if they do not — fight for the conservation of our rivers and our lakes with passion and the law. The Anglers' Conservation Association is one of the most formidable protectors of all life that depends on clean water. It

A couple of days before the present storm broke, the Department of the Environment held a seminar to consider the latest research on the effects of this. The research was carried out by the British Trust for Ornithology and the Glasgow University Unit of Applied Ornithology, among others.

The report showed that there are now about 7,200 breeding pairs in the United Kingdom, supplemented by birds from the European mainland that come and go. At least 19,000 birds winter here — around 6,000 of them inland. Winter numbers were rising at a staggering rate, at up to 24.8 per cent a year on

inland gravel pits. For gravel pits, read trout and coarse fisheries. Further increases, the report said, were likely.

Next, the bird's food intake. Estimates vary about how much the cormorant eats, but most fall between 1lb and 2lb of fish a day. There is no difficulty in estimating how big a proportion of an inland feeding bird's food is made up

No reasonable person will be surprised that anglers are concerned about this. The pressure on some fishery owners, when, day upon day they see flights of cormorants eating their stock and, they fear, their livelihoods, must be very great. It would be hubris to suggest that here and there a bird is not shot in sheer frustration — but widespread massacres? No.

However, through the effects

on some individual waters are known to have been dire,

assessments of the problem on a national scale are not easy to make. The normal cycle of life, death, disease, spawning success, pollution and predation from other sources must all be taken into account in any calculation of the loss due to cormorants alone.

Detailed, painstaking and,

of course, time-consuming re-

search is the only way of es-

tablishing what that net loss is.

It is already happening on

many fronts. The DoE has

had a dozen studies under way

and some fisheries organiza-

tions have been doing their

own work. All of angling's

representative bodies recog-

nise the need for this work,

support it and collaborate

in it.

The second is that, unlike

birds and rabbits, fish are not

warm or cuddly creatures with

photogenically endearing habi-

ts. Hence they do not attract

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some other animals are

viewed. For all that, and

though they are mostly under

the water and out of sight, they

are a part of the equation, too.

Only when the results are to hand will the true scale of any problem be known, and then everyone recognises that any programme of cormorant management that includes culling — and it may well come to that — will need to be pursued in Brussels, where the present legislation has its origins.

In the meantime, just as millions of anglers see our environment in the round, so must others professing a wildlife interest, if they are to be taken seriously. In this wider view, two points above all need to be acknowledged. The first is that, if necessary, we have created on our island a landscape that is wholly artificial. Everything within it needs to be managed to maintain balances which, for better or worse, we have destroyed in our need for food, shelter and diversion.

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SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN,
BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT
This deal is taken from the late Hugh Kelsey's *The Tough Game*, an imaginary Gold Cup Final where the reader is presented with 64 nightmare problems in both declarer play and defence.

Dealer East.
Game all. Teams

EKOJ4
VAD6
♦K1085
♦KQ

N	W	E	S
♦A8752	♦V93	♦J9	♦K642
♦A752	♦A6	♦A5	♦A4105

Contract: Four Spades by South.
Laws: eight clubs.

South plays Four Spades after East has opened the bidding with One Club. East wins the club lead with the ace and returns the five of clubs to dummy's king. Both defenders follow to the king of spades. How should declarer continue? The heart finesse is likely to be wrong and there is a problem of control. South cannot afford to draw all the trumps before tackling diamonds for that might enable East to establish a second club trick. Nor is it safe to play a trump to the ace in order to run the jack of diamonds for, if the trumps are 3-1, East may be able to promote a trump

trick for the defence by forcing dummy twice in clubs. The diamonds must be tackled from dummy at trick four and since West may have the queen but not the ace, the right card to play is the king. It will not matter if West wins the second round of diamonds for at that stage declarer can afford to go straight in with the ace of hearts. These were the East-West hands:

This year's Gold Cup finals are being played in Scotland at the Peebles Hydro. Spectators are welcome (free of charge). For further details ring Anna Judge on 01787 881920. Updates of the scores in the matches will be available on the internet.

In this year's Hubert Phillips final, played at the weekend, Michelle Brunner, Ian Holland, Tony Forrester and Jason Hacken beat Harry and Sally Anoyrakis, Ian Pagan and Peter Dunbry by 5.500 aggregate points.

Correction: On the deal in Monday's column, declarer of course carries out the elimination by ruffing the third heart in hand, not in dummy.

www.woodleybridge.co.uk/bridge.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD WATCHING

By Philip Howard

PLEIONOSIS
a. Tautology
b. A purple rock plant
c. Self-importance

BRATTICING
a. A fence
b. Hem-stitch
c. Thin ice

HALIDOM
a. An axe-axe
b. Holy thing
c. A Tolkien kingdom
SPHRAGISTICS
a. Study of seals
b. Human resource management
c. PE with Indian clubs

By Raymond Keene
White to play. This position is from the game Sveshnikov — Sokolov, Elstava 1996. Queen and knight are a powerful attacking combination, as they complement each other well. This is a typical example. How did White win quickly?

Solution on page 42

WINNING LINE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Sveshnikov — Sokolov, Elstava 1996. Queen and knight are a powerful attacking combination, as they complement each other well. This is a typical example. How did White win quickly?

SNOOKER

Harold hits back to turn tables on Gray

FROM PHIL YATES
IN OSNABRUCK

DAVE HAROLD experienced the particular satisfaction associated with avenging recent defeat when he gained a high-quality 5-2 victory over David Gray to reach the quarter-finals of the German Open here yesterday.

Last month, Harold, the world No 11, was beaten 9-6 by Gray in the first round of the United Kingdom championship and when Gray, 17, established a 20-advantage, another surprising result looked likely.

But Harold found some confidence and went on to equal the highest break of the tournament's televised phase, held by Ken Doherty, with a clearance of 122 in the fourth frame.

That enabled him to level at 2-2 and, after the interval, it was one-way traffic as the 1993 Asian Open champion from Stoke, conceded a misery 15 points in controlling the next three frames with further runs of 56, 62, 45 and 62.

Harold, who celebrated his thirtieth birthday on Monday, will attempt to reach the semi-finals at the expense of Alain Robidoux, an opponent he has beaten on all three of their previous meetings.

Robidoux had earlier guaranteed an appearance in his third consecutive ranking event quarter-final with a typically solid, no-frills performance. The bearded French Canadian, who arrived occupying a career high tenth position in the provisional world standings, defeated Jason Ferguson, of Mansfield, 5-1.

Robidoux is now sure to finish 1996 as the game's highest ranked overseas player.

RESULTS, PAGE 41

ACADEMY OF SPORT

List of candidates cut by half

BY DAVID MILLER

THE 26 bids to create the proposed British Academy of Sport were yesterday reduced to a not-so-short list of 13 by Lord MacLaurin, chair designate of the new UK Sports Council, in collaboration with Iain Spratt, Minister for Sport.

The remaining candidates are to be evaluated for their technical and practical plans, with a decision to be reached "in the early spring next year". The process, though, looks uncomfortably bureaucratic, not least because the UK Sports Council, under its present constitution, has no authority for distributing lottery funds, which would be carried out by its "junior" partner, the former Sports Council, now the England Sports Council.

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The anomaly must be resolved. As Dick Palmer, general secretary of the British Olympic Association (BOA) pointed out, at present individual athletes are eligible to apply for funding from one of

the four regional councils, yet might find themselves left off the elite squad designated for Olympic preparation by the UK Sports Council, whose exclusive role this is.

"There must be one-stop funding," Palmer said. "If you tried to devise a system as exists at the moment."

Spratt said that the academy would be "the most exciting development in British sport for many years, will be the pinnacle of a network of regional institutions and academies for particular sports, and will provide world-class services and facilities for today's athletes".

Why, then, has the UK Sports Council not been put in a position to be more directly guided in the creation of the academy? Palmer said: "You have to be co-ordinated by the BOA, the most experienced body in elite-sport management, that co-ordinates so closely already with the various individual governing bodies? Any influence in the decision will come from Craig

Reedie, a member of the UK Sports Council, though it might be said that he has a vested interest.

The BOA, significantly, having studied a dozen bids, has already formed a partnership with one of them, Upper Heyford, in Oxfordshire. The BOA regards the available former United States Air Force base as ideal. It is a mile from the M40, and already approved by the county council for development. Indeed, it might be supposed that the BOA has a better concept of the academy's creation than any quango of politicians and bureaucrats.

One of the key factors at Heyford is the existence of an American hospital that would embrace both medicine and sports science.

SHORT-LISTED BIDS: The Athlete Bid (Birmingham), Birmingham West Midlands Conference Centre, Bracknell, Berkshire, Nottingham and Listerfield, Derbyshire, Nottingham, Kent, Northumbria, Manchester, Merseyside, Northern Ireland, North Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, Outer London, Oxfordshire, Shropshire, Warwickshire, West Midlands, Wiltshire, Wrexham, York, Yorkshire.

RUGBY UNION
Tour match
England A v South Africa A
(at Gloucester, 7.30)

Angle-Wales Cup
Pool 2A
London Irish v Newbridge (7.30)

HART GILMORE FOUR: Gloucester v Worcester (7.30); Hereford v Shrewsbury (7.30); Shropshire v Leek (7.30); Worcester v Hereford (7.30)

TIPP-EX COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Northants v Cambridgeshire (at Northants), 7.30; Warwickshire v Shropshire (at Shropshire), 7.30

CLUB MATCHES: Chesham v RAF (7.0); Reading v High Wycombe (7.0)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Bude-Liskeard League: Liskeard v Monksilver (6.0); Clacton Men's National Trophy: Semi-final, first leg

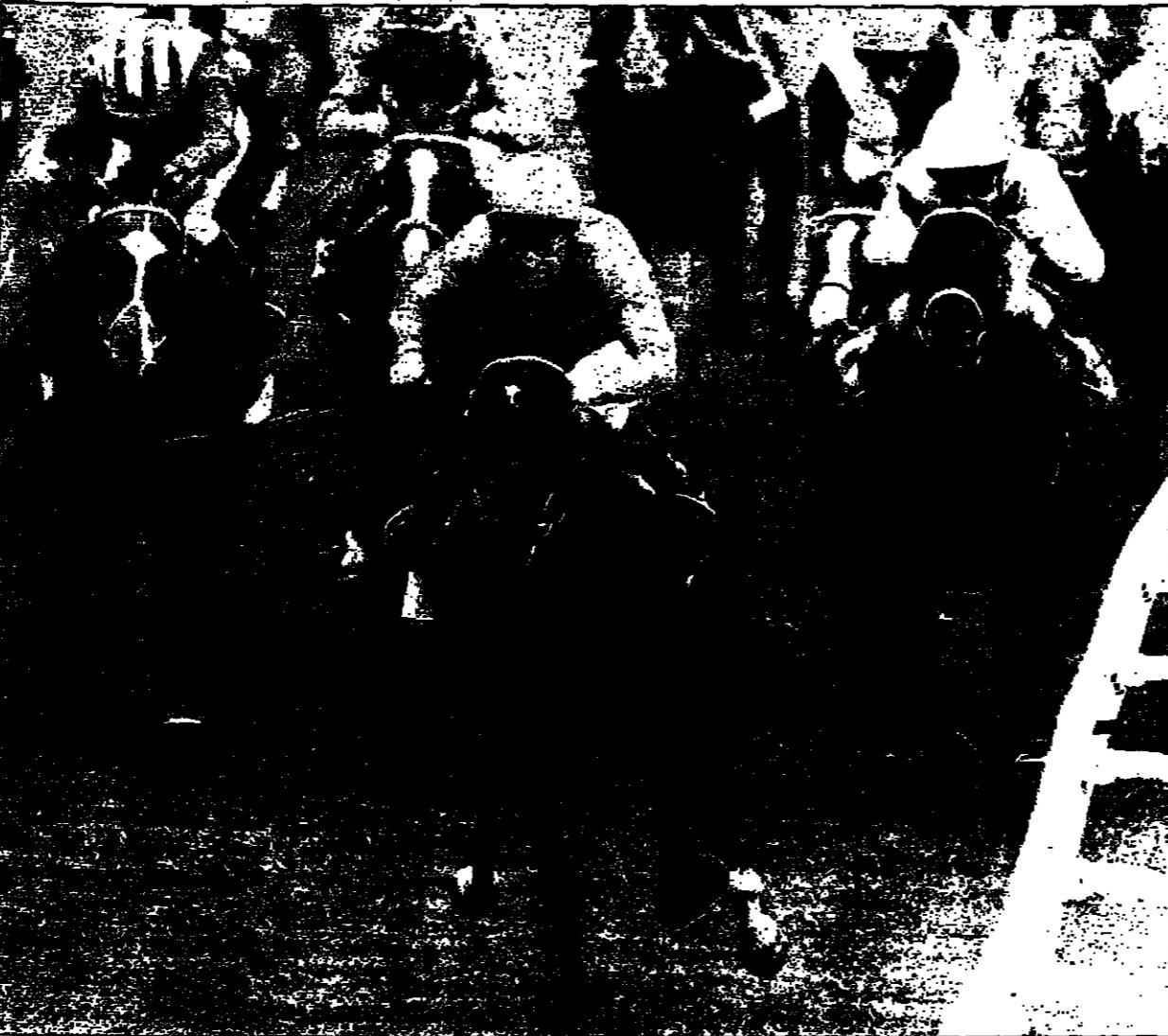
RACING: MAKTOUMS MAINTAIN SUPPORT FOR YEARLING ENTRY STAGE TO BLUE RIBAND

Epsom on track for £1m Derby

By JULIAN MUSCAT

EPSOM racecourse is looking forward to staging the first £1 million Derby after it emerged yesterday that the new supplementary entry system, announced two months ago, had not deterred owners from nominating horses in the traditional manner.

Fears that the Maktoom family would bypass the yearling entry, which closed on December 4, were allayed when upwards of 150 Maktoom-owned horses were among the nominees. The full list is expected to be published later this week, and it will be surprising if the entry is insufficient to entertain a sev-



en-figure purse for the first time in 1998.

In October, the Epsom executive introduced a £75,000 supplementary stage, payable seven days before the Epsom classic. The move was designed to allow horses not already nominated a route into the race. The Blue Riband has suffered this decade because non-eligible horses have landed a significant proportion of Derby trials. Their non-participation at Epsom has diluted the quality of Britain's premier race.

However, concern that the new mechanism would undermine the yearling entry stage were cast aside by Sheikh Mohammed's racing manager, Anthony Stroud. "We did our sums and established a substantial difference in favour of entering yearlings," he said. "We view the new supplementary stage as an opportunity to enter horses that warrant the opportunity — particularly fillies, as might have happened with Oh So Sharp in 1985."

Sheikh Mohammed's Darley Stud Management is well

represented with 70 yearling entries at last week's deadline. That is ten fewer than last year, but the sheikh-inspired Godolphin stable — which now embraces yearlings owned by Sheikh Maktoom and Sheikh Hamdan — has underlined its commitment by nominating 48 yearlings.

The yearling entry is the most cost-effective for us," Godolphin's racing manager, Simon Crisford, said. "If we missed out the yearling stage and had a borderline case, or a horse with a niggling injury, seven days before the Derby, race approaches — together with a second opportunity to enter, as a cost of £5,000 — two months before the race. A Derby runner entered as a yearling will have cost his owner £5,000 in fees.

Prize-money of £859,000 was distributed among the first four finishers in this year's Derby. Given a similar prize-money pot in 1998, it will require just two late supplements to swell the pool beyond £1 million.

However, Epsom faces an uphill struggle to maintain the size of the yearling entry. The

we probably couldn't justify supplementing it," he said. "After all, £75,000 is a lot of money. Entering now also means we won't have to guess whether a lightly raced horse is worth supplementing."

The Derby entry structure is complicated but Maktoom support at the yearling stage was crucial to achieving the much-desired £1 million pot. With each yearling costing £250 to nominate, the Dubai family have already paid upwards of £40,000 into the prize-money pool for 1998. Further forfeits are due as the

1997 Derby attracted 554 nominations, a near 11 per cent fall on the previous year. A similar number is expected for 1998.

Derby Day itself is also perceived to be in decline. The event was poorly promoted to the public prior to Epsom's purchase by Racecourse Holdings Trust in 1994. In promising to deliver a £1 million Derby, the new supplementary entry system in 1998 will also allow the best horses the chance to compete. These are two significant landmarks in the Derby's regeneration.

Shaa'um's first prize of £23,100 in this year's Derby could soon be overshadowed. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

THUNDERER
2.30 LORD OF THE WEST (nap)
3.00 Lord McMurrough
3.30 Kelly Mac

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating:
1.30 SLINGSBY

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (CHASE COURSE); GOOD TO SOFT (HORDES) SIS

1.00 ASH MARES ONLY NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,502; 2m) (10 runners)

1 211111 MELSTOCK MERGE 8 (M) (Mrs K Burchell) Miss J Pitman 6-11-3 W McMurrough 22/3 212122 GOLD 20 (27) (M) (Mrs J Pitman) Mrs J Pitman 6-11-3 W McMurrough 22/3 213123 FAIRY FANTASY 10 (P) (Mrs P Stacey) P McLean 5-10-10 J Osborne 5 214124 LADY FOLEY 16 (M) (P) (Mrs P Stacey) P McLean 5-10-10 J Osborne 5 215125 DOLLY DREAM 3-MF (P) (Mrs P Stacey) P McLean 5-10-10 J Osborne 5 216126 FAIRY FANTASY 2-MF (P) (Mrs P Stacey) J Osborne 4-10-10 J Osborne 5 217127 QUALIFIRE 377 (Qualified Holder) Miss J Pitman 7-10-10 G Bradley 6 218128 QUICK CHARGE 238 (M) (Mrs J Pitman) Miss J Pitman 7-10-10 G Bradley 6 219129 TROPHY 23 (M) (Mrs J Pitman) Miss J Pitman 7-10-10 G Bradley 6 220130 DOLLY DREAM 3-MF (P) (Mrs P Stacey) J Osborne 4-10-10 J Osborne 5 221131 FAIRY FANTASY 2-MF (P) (Mrs P Stacey) J Osborne 4-10-10 J Osborne 5 222132 FAIRY FANTASY 2-MF (P) (Mrs P Stacey) J Osborne 4-10-10 J Osborne 5 223133 FAIRY FANTASY 2-MF (P) (Mrs P Stacey) J Osborne 4-10-10 J Osborne 5 224134 FAIRY FANTASY 2-MF 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CRICKET

Butcher saves A team's bacon

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
IN BRISBANE

BRISBANE (first day of four: Queensland won toss): England A have scored 170 for seven wickets against Queensland

MARK BUTCHER failed once again to reach a century, but his determination and resolve prevented the capitulation of the England A team on the first day of the final match of its tour, against Queensland, here yesterday.

The Surrey left-hander has long looked the most impressive batsman in the party, the most likely to make the step up to the senior side for the Ashes series next summer.

The only blot on his tour copybook has been his failure to convert impressive innings into three figures: a bad habit that is out of place with Butcher's exemplary technique.

His patiently compiled 72 included eight boundaries and held the England A innings together. Jason Gadiani, playing his first innings since cracking his right index finger against the Australian Cricket Academy three weeks ago, helped Butcher to add 60 for the fourth wicket before becoming the third of four victims for Brendan Creevey, the Queensland fast bowler who was making his first-class debut.

"It's been a long time since I've been out in the middle and my finger felt really good today," Gadiani said. "I felt the finger on the odd shot but I was pleased with the way I was playing and it didn't hurt too much when I played the aggressive shots."

"It's the best I have batted for a while, but unfortunately a good ball got me. It was seaming around a lot early in the day, which we thought it would after looking at the first Test when Australia played West Indies there."

The first session on the first day is all about survival and if you have got wickets in hand after that you can build a big score. It didn't work out today, but we will be looking to press on tomorrow."

Butcher's innings was finally ended by a bat-pad catch off the left-arm spinner, Paul Jackson. Mark Ealham and Ashley Giles remained undefeated when the storm forced the players to scurry for cover, giving England A some hope of a respectable total.

For the seventh time in 13

innings on this tour, however, Butcher failed to reach three figures after passing 50, a statistic that clearly ranks with a player determined to emulate his father, Alan, and play Test cricket.

"I was thinking about it the other day and I'm still not playing as well as I can," he said. "I've managed to get seven half-centuries out here without ever feeling in top form."

"It would have been nice to get a hundred and I thought I was settled in for one today. It's probably something to do with concentration, but it's better than walking off with five or ten every time. When I start feeling I'm in a bit of touch it will probably come much easier, but every run scored out here has been hard work for me."

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For the seventh time in 13



Michael Atherton, the England captain, loses his middle stump to Henry Olonga in the opening session of the tour match against Matabeleland yesterday. Report, page 44

SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND A: First Innings	
M A Butcher c Cassell b Creevey	72
M McGrath c & b Creevey	1
A McGrath lbw b Creevey	1
C White c Soccombe b Creevey	24
J E R Gadiani lbw b Creevey	28
H Hollis low b Prestwich	32
M A Ealham lbw b Prestwich	32
M A Giles not out	1
E Giles (6, no 6)	1
Extras (6, no 1)	1
Total (7 wickets)	170
G Gadiani and D W Headley to bat.	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-29, 3-35, 4-99, 5-114, 6-147, 7-164	
BOWLING: Muller 17-5-41-4; Creevey 18-4-41-4; Prestwich 12-2-45-1; Law 5-2-14-0; Jackson 14-5-23-2	
QUEENSLAND: T J Dixon, JP Morris, S G Law, M P Mott, J L Cessai, W A Soccombe, S A Prestwich, B N Creevey, P W Jackson, S A Muller. Umpires: P D Parker and J F Torpey.	

nique. A century on a lively Gabba pitch would have been greatly appreciated by his team-mates, but his contribution in defining an impressive second-string Queensland attack has already given England A a fighting chance of building a competitive total. When a storm ended play prematurely, the touring team had reached 170 for seven. Such a score looked unlikely after a stuttering start.

The Yorkshire trio of Michael Vaughan, Anthony McGrath and Craig White departed within 15 overs of the start, after England A had been invited to bat. But for Butcher's 24 hours of defiance, Queensland would have ended the first day having made inroads into England's first-innings score.

For the seventh time in 13

Azharuddin takes control

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

KANPUR (third day of five): India, with five second-innings wickets in hand, lead South Africa by 330 runs

AN UNBEATEN 88 by Mohammed Azharuddin put India in command as their overall lead swelled to 330 runs on the third day of the third and deciding Test match against South Africa at the Green Park stadium in Kanpur.

Despite the unpredictable pitch, Azharuddin stood by his policy to attack the South African bowling. "You can't just go out and defend," he said. "Sometimes you have to convert the good ball into a bad one. It was a case of being positive and taking my chance."

Azharuddin executed some sparkling drives on both sides of the wicket and was particularly severe on Lance Klusener, the pace bowler, whom he struck for eight boundaries.

Paul Adams, the left-arm spinner, was despatched to the fence six times in Azharuddin's chanceless innings, compiled in 142 balls, during which he added 71 runs for the fifth wicket with Sachin Tendulkar.

The India captain, who was yesterday appointed for the tours of South Africa,

Zimbabwe and West Indies next year, hit four fours in his 36 before he edged Klusener to the wicketkeeper, Rahul Dravid, undefeated on 33 at the close, also hit four boundaries and shared in an unbroken stand of 78 with Azharuddin.

The only wicket before lunch was that of Nayan Mongia, who departed in the tenth over of the day when Klusener trapped him leg-before for 18. Saurav Ganguly, despite requiring a runner because of an ankle injury, hit six boundaries in an innings of 41 before he was caught by Brian McMillan, at silly point, off Pat Cummins.

De Villiers and Klusener finished with two wickets apiece but the South African spinners surprisingly failed to make any impression on the slow, low-bouncing wicket that had helped Adams to career-best figures of six for 55 in the first innings.

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In India, who have not lost a home series since 1986-87, now look certain to extend that record, while South Africa face a formidable task to avoid their first Test series defeat since returning to the international arena four years ago.

Scoreboard, page 41

West Indians beaten by scratch team

CANBERRA (Prime Minister's XI won toss; Australian Prime Minister's XI beat West Indians by 58 runs

The West Indians suffered a further blow to their morale when they were beaten by 58 runs in their limited-overs match against an Australian Prime Minister's XI in Canberra yesterday.

The touring team, 2-0 down in the Test series against Australia and without a win in the World Series one-day competition, were outplayed by a scratch team of Sheffield Shield players led by the former Test captain, Allan Border.

Courtney Walsh, the West Indies captain, said: "Our batting didn't have any conviction or confidence." Walsh said his side conceded about 30 runs because of poor fielding.

Chasing the hosts' total of 288 for eight in 50 overs, the West Indians scored 200 for nine in 43 overs. To add to the West Indians' troubles, Patterson Thompson, the fast bowler, was unable to bat because of a knee injury.

Scoreboard, page 41

Giddins case leads to appeals review

By IVO TENNANT

THE Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) is planning to revamp its system of hearing disciplinary appeals at its winter meeting today and tomorrow. This follows the protracted procedures earlier this year when dealing with Raymond Illingworth, the former chairman of selectors, and Ed Giddins, the Sussex fast bowler who was banned from first-class cricket.

This will be the TCCB's last meeting before handing over power to the new English Cricket Board at the start of next year. A small working party was set up in the autumn by the discipline committee to carry out a review of disciplinary regulations. The aim was to provide a more efficient, speedy and fair system when the cases of individual players were to be heard.

The chairman of this committee, who is at present Gerard Elias, QC, would have the power to hold a personal meeting with the player in question. If this was not satisfactorily resolved, the individual would go before a three-man hearing. The final

resort would be a full disciplinary hearing in front of at least five members of the committee. The chairman could appoint himself or somebody else to hear any appeal. This would replace present procedures, since the Cricket Council will cease to exist when the new board comes into being.

Other matters to be resolved at the winter meeting will include the awarding of two runs to the batting side for each wide conceded in first-class cricket next year. It will bring this particular extra in line with the penalty for a no-ball.

The TCCB is also proposing that the choice of ball for a Test series be resolved at the start of the season. It will no longer be decided on the toss of a coin and will mean that the captains in question would use the same make of ball for each Test match during an English summer.

John Steele, the former Leicestershire all-rounder, is to replace Kevin Lyons on the first-class umpires list for next year. The latter joins the reserve list.

BOXING

Thornhill faces an uphill task

GARY THORNHILL, of Liverpool, attempts to seize the Commonwealth super-featherweight title from Justin Jukko, the holder, at the Elephant and Castle Leisure Centre, London, tonight.

Jukko, a London-based Ugandan, was called in to fill the bill when Thornhill's proposed bout for the British title was called off after PJ Gallagher, the champion, was injured in training.

Frank Maloney, the promoter, sees the contest as a stepping stone to a world title contest for Jukko, who has recently joined him from the Frank Warren camp. "We want to move Justin into a world title situation. And I'm not worried which version of the title," Maloney said.

Thornhill, 28, has won 12 of his 13 contests, including seven stoppages, his one blemish coming in February 1994 when he drew with Eddie Lloyd. He trades on aggression, but is likely to find the accurate Jukko too smart. The holder has so far failed to build on his victory over Tony Pep, of Canada, which won him the Commonwealth title 15 months ago.

Another new recruit for Maloney, Crawford Ashley, the Leeds light-heavyweight, will meet the durable Tony Booth, of Sheffield, while he awaits an attempt at the European title, for which he is the leading contender. Ashley has lost two world title attempts — against Michael Dunn, for the International Boxing Federation super-middleweight title, and Virgil Hill, for the World Boxing Association light-heavyweight title.

RUGBY UNION: SCOTS ENLIST AID OF ONLY ONE NEWCOMER TO TAKE ON THE ITALIANS

Scotland recall Reed to turn the tide

By MARK SOISTER

TWO years after his last international appearance, Andy Reed, the Wasps lock forward, has been recalled to the Scotland team and will win his eleventh cap against Italy at Murrayfield on Saturday.

Reed, 27, is one of four changes to the side that performed so disappointingly against Australia. He replaces Doddie Weir, while Scott Hastings returns, as does Bryan Redpath. Matt Stewart, the Northampton tight-head prop, is the one new cap.

A chronic back injury interrupted Reed's career and meant he missed two five nations' championships, the 1995 World Cup and a tour to New Zealand. "It's like winning my first cap again," Reed said as the squad gathered for a public training session in Edinburgh's Princes Street

Gardens. "It's been a long time and I can't wait. Earlier this year I was wondering if I would ever play again let alone for my country."

After four consecutive defeats, and the urgent need of victory against Italy, the selectors have adopted a back-to-the-future policy, opting where possible for experience. Indeed, five players were involved in the 1990 team, which also says much about the lack of real emerging talent.

The one nod to the future is the inclusion of Stewart, 23, who replaces his namesake, Barry, from Edinburgh Academicals, dropped after two appearances, albeit against New Zealand and Australia.

"I have got Ian McGeechan, the Northampton director of rugby, to thank for everything," Stewart, who moved to Franklin's Gardens from Blackheath this year, said. "I'd been around for three years

but never really got a look in. The move has paid off and being with McGeechan is the icing on the cake."

Richie Barnes, the Scotland team coach, said: "He is a very strong player, good in the scrum and technically efficient in the lineout. Barry Stewart, the player he replaces, is a young man and has had two tough tests, but he's still very much in the picture."

At the other end of the scale

Saturday with an ankle injury, had already withdrawn from the England A side that met Argentina at Northampton last night.

The club captain could also be ruled out of Bristol's rescheduled Courage league game at home to Leicester tomorrow week.

His absence would be a big blow to the West Country side, who are struggling in the relegation zone, two points ahead of their neighbours, Gloucester, who they face on Saturday week if they beat Leydney.

Terry Burwell, the Bristol captain, said: "We hoped we had contained the outbreak over the weekend but we now hear Andy is ill."

The eight players, all forwards, have the same strain of staphylococcus bacteria, which brings the victim out in boils. Newsham and Julian Brammer, the hookers, who is also ill, both played for the Combined Services against the touring Argentina

side last week. The Rugby Football Union (RFU) are aware of the situation but are delaying a decision about a possible postponement of the match against Lydney until they receive a report from the club doctor at Newbury. He is due to carry out swab tests on all the first team players and will feed the information to Graham Roberts, the RFU doctor.

Newbury, who postponed their match with Worcester on Saturday, face a match with Leicester — the runners-up in the cup last year — on Saturday week if they beat Leydney.

The good news is that it is just tendon trouble rather than ligament damage," Burwell said.

Kevin Bowring, the Wales coach, has told Neil Jenkins his move to full back does not rule him out of future selection at stand-off half. Jenkins, who was born in New Zealand, has represented Wales in the past and has been a regular in the national team. "I am really chuffed," he said. "I am really chuffed."

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FOOTBALL: SOUTH COAST CLUB SET FOR MORE SECURE FUTURE AFTER BEING FLOATED ON STOCK MARKET

Southampton join big league

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

SOUTHAMPTON, never recognised as more than country cousins among city slickers, have joined the big league. The south coast club is to be floated on the stock market after being taken over yesterday by Secure Retirement plc, a property development and healthcare company, in a move that values the club at £101 million.

Secure has offered to purchase Southampton for £7.91 million and it has been accepted by the FA Carling Premiership club's board of directors. Shareholders of Secure will have to back the bid at an extraordinary general meeting and accept the change of name to Southampton Leisure Holdings plc.

A stock market listing will make it much easier for the club to raise additional funds needed for its new stadium — a £40 million development to be situated on a 60-acre site at Stenham, on the northern outskirts of the city.

Secure has promised to inject £3 million into the new company immediately, with another £2 million likely to follow within 12 months. In return, it will hold half the seats on the board of Southampton Leisure Holdings plc, which will be chaired by Rupert Lowe, Secure's existing chairman.

"We are aiming to create, in Southampton, a footballing force for the millennium and, in the new stadium, a focal point for the local community," Lowe said. "Southampton is a very well-run club with great potential and represents a highly attractive investment."

Guy Askham, the Southampton chairman, said: "This is a very important deal for the club, its shareholders, staff and supporters. Secure is bringing to the table cash, assets, access to stock market funds and proven business skills. We have great ambitions for this club and this deal will play a vital part in achieving them."

Lawrie McMenemy



Scales, left, happy to be with his new manager, Gerry Francis, at Tottenham's training ground yesterday

claimed it was the most significant event at the club since he brought Kevin Keegan to The Dell as a player in 1980. He signed Keegan, now the Newcastle United manager, from Hamburg for £400,000.

"This is the most important thing to happen here since I got Kevin," McMenemy, the director of football, said. "It gives the club a springboard for the future, as did his arrival. People really sat up and took notice when we signed him and a few others.

There are one or two clubs who are already in the second division of the stock market and, by our merger, we have

overtaken them all and jumped straight in with the big boys. If we are to be in with those big boys, we have to behave like them.

"The premier league is an exciting place to be and, as a product, it is marketed extremely well. We have been in the top flight for 17 years, against all the odds, but we have still managed to make people notice us."

Hampshire County Council is to discuss the latest development tomorrow. It needs final reassurances that, before it hands over the site at Stenham, Southampton has its financial backing in place.

Mike Hancock, the council leader, said yesterday: "We are delighted that Southampton have demonstrated they have the ability to provide the funding necessary to build the stadium."

"We have always wanted to provide a stadium for the south of England which will be second to none, and this is a significant step."

Eight Premiership, Nationwide League and Bell's Scottish League clubs have joined the stock market, including Tottenham Hotspur, Manchester United, Preston North End, Chelsea and Celtic. It is believed that Aston Villa,

Newcastle United and Sheffield United — after its takeover by Conrad, the leisure group — are preparing similar moves.

Southampton's deal with

Secure, which is based in Bristol, is known in the City as a "reverse takeover" because Secure has smaller assets. The company has been quoted on the Stock Exchange since 1994 and its shares were suspended yesterday morning, at 47p, in line with Stock Exchange rules.

"I'm more used to reverse passes than reverse takeovers but this is great news for the Saints," McMenemy said.

Tottenham ambition persuaded Scales

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

JOHN SCALES, Tottenham Hotspur's £2.6 million signing, bears no grudge against Leeds United for releasing him, with the attached report "not good enough", as a youngster 11 years ago. Should he return to the city on Saturday, when Tottenham visit Elland Road in the FA Carling Premiership, it is unlikely that the officials or supporters of Leeds will be so forgiving.

Scales, 30, was due to move from Liverpool to Leeds at the weekend but, after the late intervention and successful persuasion of Alan Sugar, the Tottenham chairman, and Gerry Francis, the manager, he decided to opt for White Hart Lane instead. Cut much gnashing of teeth from Bill Fotherby, the Leeds chairman, and Eric Hall, Scales's adviser.

Fotherby subsequently beat Scales for being "sneaky", while the ubiquitous Hall, agent to leading players, was also left feeling miffed. He was effectively brokering the deal with Leeds but had no influence over the sudden switch. "Eric had nothing to do with the negotiations with Tottenham," Scales said.

"I was very impressed with what Gerry had to say. I like his plans and his ambitions. I am ambitious, too, which is why I preferred Tottenham. It was purely a football decision."

Francis, who signed Steffen Iversen, the Norway Under-21

striker, for £2.5 million six days ago, will give Scales a run-out in a reserve match today. He has not played for more than a month because of a groin injury.

"If John is fit enough, he will play against Leeds," Francis said. "I have no worries, and nor does he, about any adverse reaction from the Leeds people."

Derbyshire refuse to give in to Adams

DERBYSHIRE say they intend to make Chris Adams honour his contract, despite an offer from the batsman to buy out the remaining two years at a personal cost of £50,000 (Richard Hobson writes). Adams, 26, has asked a solicitor to check the validity of his contract under the Treaty of Rome. He says that his desire to leave the County Ground stems from his ambition to play for England rather than the prospect of earning higher wages with another county.

Adams scored 1,742 first-class runs at an average of 52.78 last season and, although only Graham Gooch and Steve James recorded higher aggregates, he failed to win selection for the England A tour to Australia. Adams claimed that Derbyshire gave a "gentleman's agreement" to review his contract at the end of last season if he was unhappy.

Amaechi pulls out

BASKETBALL: John Amaechi, England's leading scorer in their past two internationals, has withdrawn from the squad due to visit Germany next Wednesday for family reasons. The forward insists that his absence has nothing to do with England's failure to progress from the semi-final round in the European championship. Amaechi, 26, has promised to make himself available for the home game against Portugal next month.

England well placed

CRICKET: Alex Tudor and Dean Cosker took eight wickets between them to put England on course for a convincing victory over Pakistan in the opening under-19 international in Faisalabad yesterday. Pakistan, who went into their second innings with a lead of 26, were pried out for 123, setting England 150 to win. Cosker, the Glamorgan slow left-arm, returned superb figures of five for 36. England finished on 99 for three, leaving them 51 runs short of victory going into the final day today.

Depleted India hold on

HOCKEY: India, reduced to ten men for half the match, held Holland to a 1-1 draw in the Champions Trophy in Madras yesterday. Santiago Deo, the Spanish umpire, sent off Mohammad Riaz, the Indian midfield player, in the first minute of an ill-tempered encounter for hitting Marten Eikel in the face. Spain scored twice in the last seven minutes to snatch a 2-2 draw against Pakistan, while Germany, the defending champions, beat Australia 3-1 in heavy rain and fading light.

Boost for cyclists

CYCLING: Six young riders will benefit next year from the Dave Rayner Fund, established when Rayner, a successful British professional, died in 1994 after an accident at a Bradford nightclub. Each will receive support for six months while they live and race in Europe, seeking contracts with leading teams. The six are Gavin Sellen (Northfleet), Jamie Burrow (Dartford), Charly Wegelius (York), Justin Clarke (Ewell), Neil Jones (Abergavenny) and Paul Manning (Burntwood).

Ginola steering on a different course

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

Woking to retain Walker's services

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

CLIVE WALKER is staying at Woking, the club confirmed yesterday. The FA Cup giant-killers have blocked Walker's move to their Vauxhall Conference rivals, Rushden and Diamonds, who offered him a lucrative 2½-year contract and a coaching post.

Walker, however, are determined to hold on to their best-known player as they battle for promotion to the League and more Cup glory in the third round at Coventry City, the FA Carling Premiership's bottom club.

The Woking management committee met on Monday to discuss Rushden's interest in the former Chelsea winger, who scored in both their away wins in the Cup, over Millwall and Cambridge United.

They issued the following statement yesterday morning:

"We do not wish to lose the services of Clive Walker and have, therefore, refused the application from him to take up the position of player-coach with Rushden and Diamonds."

"The committee reiterated its wish to retain the services of Clive, who is still on contract to Woking until the end of the season."

Woking insist they have

played fair with the player by informing him of the approach from their wealthy rivals.

But they add: "The committee, along with the

manager, recognise the magnificent part played by all the players and supporters in the success of Woking FC. We don't intend to throw this away by getting rid of any key players."

Walker, 39, has been informed of the club's decision and appears ready to accept it.

"I have never wanted to leave Woking, everybody knows that," he said.

Although Walker accepts that Woking cannot match the reported £60-a-week from Rushden, he will hope they now make him a new offer.

With coaching responsibilities, to ensure he stays committed to Kingfield.

Northwich Victoria have become the fourth Conference club to change their manager this season, replacing Mark Hancock with Phil Wilson, who had been manager of Leek Town, of the Unibond League. Hancock, who had taken on the job in the summer after the departure of Brian Kettle, resigned because of work commitments.

The liaison with Renault could signal an unusual career move. He is involved in talks with them about racing in the British touring car championship next year and will take part in a test drive next week with Alain Menu, the leading Swiss driver.

"I love motor racing and I want to do some pro driving, but it depends on getting the go-ahead from Newcastle because of their insurance policy on me," Ginola said.

Peter Reid, the Sunderland manager, was fined £750 by the FA yesterday after his touchline tirade against Paul Gascoigne, the referee who sent off two of his players in a match against Arsenal in September. "I was guilty," he said, "I will pay the fine and put it all behind me."

Brighton and Hove Albion's problems are not so easily dismissed. They just get worse. Sir Derek Spencer, the MP for Brighton Pavilion, has written to the Department of Trade calling for an investigation into the way the troubled Nationwide League third division club is being run.

Wales, too, have had a bad time of late, with two World Cup qualifying defeats, but Mark Hughes provided some relief when he announced that he would be joining up with the squad today for the group seven match against Turkey in Cardiff on Saturday. He missed Chelsea's 2-2 home draw with Everton last Saturday because of a badly-gashed shin sustained against Leeds United a week earlier.

Homing in on chance of Cup upset

Andrew Longmore urges Stevenage to go for glory rather than cash in on away trip

Callers to Stevenage Borough FC yesterday were greeted by a recorded message from a girl who sounded as if she had just run the London Marathon. "Details of the arrangements (pause) for the FA Cup tie against Birmingham (pause) will be available (pause) within the next few days. (Big pause). Please be patient."

So will we have to be while the police, the local council and the club officials debate whether the newly developed, 7,000-capacity Broadhall Way ground is fit to host a lively big-city club like Birmingham City, or whether loyalty will bow to mathematics and, by mutual agreement, the tie be switched to St Andrews.

Stevenage could hope to make about £25,000 in gate receipts from a home tie. Their 50 per cent share of a 25,000 crowd at Birmingham would be considerably higher. Only their credibility in the eyes of supporters and those neutrals who viewed their upstart challenge to the hierarchy with some relish last summer would suffer. The draw has done its best to strangle the life out of the third round without one of the non-league stars of the show elevating finance above romance.

"We want to play the tie at

home because we want to win and we want to demonstrate we can cope with league football off the field as well as on it," Paul Fairclough, the Stevenage manager, said.

"But to a large extent the decision is out of our hands."

With the echoes of Hillsborough still ringing in their ears, the police tend to err on the side of caution, particularly as the record of Birmingham fans is far from spotless. Sudbury Town, for example, were allowed to play Brighton at home in the first round, but were sent to a

neutral venue, Colchester United, to play Brentford in the second for safety reasons.

Any change of venue, however, could have serious implications for Stevenage's hard-fought attempt to enter the Nationwide League, which finally founded in the High Court last summer. If the ground, which is apparently one toilet block away from being awarded the highest certificate of safety, is not deemed safe to host the hordes from Birmingham at home without problems, but we don't want to cause problems through pig-headedness."

Like Macclesfield Town and Kidderminster Harriers before them, Stevenage fell foul of the Football League's December 31 deadline on ground development. But once they had capped a remarkable rise by winning the Vauxhall Conference, the club tried to persuade the football authorities that the ground would be ready in time for their first game in the third division.

The league would not budge and nor would the High Court, who rejected the club's case.

Stevenage feel they should be playing Birmingham — or at least Barnet — every week, not just in the FA Cup, and nothing would satisfy honour more than to continue their run.

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next week, or even the FA Cup final.

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Flight of fancy encounters some turbulence

There are men I know who would pay a lot of money to have coffee split in their laps by Jill Dando. But after last night's *Holiday Special: Faster Your Seatbelt* (BBC1) not as many as there were and willing to pay nothing like so much. Brace, brace — the BBC's favourite pin-up girl was about to crash-land.

"You're gorgeous," sang the soundtrack incessantly. But come on, who were they fooling? The idea of the air hostess as an integral part of the male sexual psyche died when somebody invented knee-length polyester. Dando — clad in easy-clean navy blue and a scarf that could induce motion sickness in a departure lounge — was about to discover why. Nobody, but nobody looks sexy in cabin crew uniform.

All of which must have come as something of a disappointment for Dando who, if the *Radio Times* is to be believed, is wearying of being

taken seriously as a newsreader and sensible presenter of *Criewatch*, and now wants to be treated as a sex object. Anybody who doubts the truthfulness of her intent cannot have been watching the latest season of *Holiday*, where her hitherto primly buttoned-up image has been slowly and rather distractingly... unbuttoned.

"Jill," gurgles an oily producer, "we'd like to do a piece to camera with you lying on the Caribbean foreshore, the waves just lapping gently around you, er..." Does this serious newsreader get up on her high-horse (jodhpurs, now there's an idea)? Does she stalk off in high dudgeon (umm, handcuffs — sorry, thought you said dugeon?) She does not. Instead a long and lightly bronzed limb is extended slowly from a casually wrapped sarong. She's ready for her close-up now, Mr DeMille.

As an air hostess, it must be said La Dando was not really much

cop. She directed passengers to the wrong seats; she giggled her way through the safety demonstration and while the pros walked backwards down aisles dispensing undrinkable beverages, she walked forwards offering a large selection of apologies and more giggles.

Only when it came to announcing the duty-free over the public address system, was she on solid territory. "In a moment, the cabin crew..." began those famous dulce tones.

"Sorry, but she's just too good at that," moaned a temporary colleague.

And with that she landed. It was back to real life and the humdrum world of being a ridiculously attractive newsreader, multi-faceted television presenter and job travelling to the world's top holiday spots. It's tough being a sex object.

Moving very slowly, we came to the last episode of *Soldier*,

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

Soldier (ITV) — and I mean slowly. Nothing moves quite as ponderously or as awkwardly as a took so many implausible twists of a paper-thin story to go Butcher (Danny Cunningham) thrown into a French prison the day before he was due to marry Starry (Kate O'Malley), that I quite despaired of ever getting to the end at all.

Then, after all the trouble of

getting him into prison, good old Steve (Shaun Dingwall) arranged his release in seconds — unseen and virtually unexplained. "I told them you were a war hero." Not so much a case of bearing the dramatic tension, as spotting it.

Ditto for the suspense that surrounded the Colonel's lady and the dashing Captain Forsyth. Really, if you're trying to keep your affair a secret from your husband, it's probably best if you boyfriend doesn't put his arms around you outside the officers' mess.

Taking the series back to basics after the departure of those unlikely superstars, Robson Greene and Jerome Flynn, was a brave move by the producers. But a bit of reasonably intensive surgery is still needed before the series returns again. While a young and largely unknown cast has certainly provided realism, a few of them are clearly right at the limits of their ability and are helped not a

jot by leisurely direction that seeks to paper over the deficiencies of the scripts by leaving the camera to linger on faces that have already forgotten which emotion it is they are supposed to be showing. Apart from that... it's fine.

Elsewhere a disastrous few days for Yorkshire police men continued. Last week Jimmy McGovern upset the South Yorkshire constabulary with *Hillborough* and last night Network First (ITV) reminded us of the breathtaking incompetence of the West Yorkshire force with *Silent Victims: The Untold Story of the Yorkshire Ripper*. It was, however, a pretty gentle reminder, largely, I imagine, because the man recounting the untold story was Keith Hellawell, now Chief Constable of West Yorkshire.

It proved a curious programme, promising a lot (60 murders and attempted murders that Peter Sutcliffe may have committed but was never charged with) but delivering little. Sutcliffe eventually admitted two attempted murders to Hellawell — one that hadn't featured in the programme at all and one that memorably had.

This was an attack in the early 1970s on a 14-year-old schoolgirl who provided an identikit picture so accurate that Sutcliffe joked to his mother-in-law that it looked just like him. It was.

Contemporaneous pop music accompanied each grisly reconstruction (this was no time to be playing *Name That Tune*) but it might have been more helpful had it accompanied Hellawell's account. Only gradually did it become clear that his secret inquiry had lasted 15 years and only right at the end was it revealed that Sutcliffe's "new" confession had been made four years ago. Grimly fascinating, but hardly a network first.

BBC1

- 6.00am BUSINESS BREAKFAST (56850)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (97121)
- 9.00 Breakfast Extra (T) (192414)
- 9.20 STYLE CHALLENGE (480763)
- 9.45 KILROY (663762)
- 10.30 CAN'T COOK, WON'T COOK With Ainsley Harriott (75701)
- 11.00 NEWS (T), regional news and weather (3339366) 11.05 The Really Useful Show Consumer advice (5334879) 11.45 Smiles People's (373530)
- 12.00 NEWS (T) and weather (2272463)
- 12.05pm POLICE RESCUE (8227430)
- 12.55 THE WEATHER SHOW (85881701)
- 1.00 NEWS (T) and weather (44968) 1.30 Regional News and weather (3427250)
- 1.40 NEIGHBOURS (T) (2978465) 2.00 Call Me Bluff (7072) 2.30 A Week in the Country. A guide to what's going on in the countryside (817) 3.00 Incongruous Quiz on wheels (3879)
- 3.30 ANTS IN YOUR PANTS (5948614) 3.50 Chucklevision (5928850) 4.10 Get Your Own Back (T) (1872188) 4.35 The Queen's Nose (T) (7651701) 5.00 Newsround (T) (5219826) 5.10 Blue Peter (T) (8528169)
- 5.35 NEIGHBOURS (T) (170904)
- 6.00 NEWS (T) and weather (546)
- 6.30 REGIONAL NEWS MAGAZINES (896)
- 7.00 SMALL TALK Game show presented by Ronnie Corbett (T) (8188)
- 7.30 HERE AND NOW Investigative series with Sue Lewishy (T) (782)
- 8.00 HOW DO THEY DO THAT? Eamonn Holmes and Esther McVeay reveal how riders manoeuvre powerful racing motorbikes around hairpin bends at 140mph, how a Birmingham community teamed up with the police to clean up their streets and cut crime and how 101 Dalymounts were groomed for film stardom (T) (473121)
- 8.50 POINTS OF VIEW with Anne Robinson (T) (468275)
- 8.55 POLITICAL BROADCAST: Conservative Party (T) (465546)
- 9.00 NEWS (T), regional news and weather (7972)
- 9.30 THE X FILES Mulder uncovers more clues about a government cover-up, while Scully pursues the man who murdered her sister. With Gillian Anderson and David Duchovny (2/2) (T) (940855)
- 10.15 HARRY ENFIELD AND CHUMS The guests are Paul Whitehouse, Kathy Burke and Demon Hill (T) (2049270) WALES: Kane's Wales 10.45 Harry Enfield 11.15 Film: Futur Play 1.10am Film: Howard — A New Breed of Hero (1986) with Lea Thompson and Tim Robbins. A live-action fantasy based on the exploits of the comic character. Directed by Willard Huck (103102)
- 12.35pm FILM: Howard — A New Breed of Hero (1986) with Lea Thompson and Tim Robbins. A live-action fantasy based on the exploits of the comic character. Directed by Willard Huck (103102)
- 2.20 WEATHER (4797657)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes The numbers next to each TV programme rating are Video PlusCode numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ handset. Tap in the VideoPlus+ number, then press the plus sign, then tap the VideoPlus+ icon. Pluscode ("") and Video Programme are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday

SKY 1

- 7.00pm Love Connection (452411) 7.20 Press Your Luck (4522979) 7.40 Jeopardy! (505950) 8.10 Hotel (502482) 8.40 Another World (5050445) 9.45 Home & Leisure (7274617) 10.40 Real TV (4297430) 11.10 Sally Jessy Raphael (50701) 12.00 Soap Opera (50701) 1.15 The X Factor (525237) 9.00 Outer Limits (68701) 10.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (58188) 11.00 New Superman (520701) 12.00 L.A.P.D. (21678) 12.30 Real TV (47470) 1.00 Hi-Fi (57226)

SKY 2

- 7.00pm Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (1415430) 8.00 Teletar (1497659) 11.00 Lost (1497659) 12.00 The Real (1497659) 1.15 The Next Generation (58188) 2.00 Star Trek: Generations (58188) 3.00 Star Trek: Generations (58188) 4.00 Csi: Crime Scene Investigation (52165) 5.00 Where Are You? (52165) 5.25 Where Are You? (52165) 6.00 The Little Rascals (1994) (54121) 7.00 The Little Rascals (1994) (54121) 8.00 When the Bough Breaks (1994) (54141) 9.00 The Little Rascals (1994) (54141) 10.00 Monkey Wrenches (1988) (70384) 10.30 Flipper (1967) (35285)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

- 5.00pm Curse of the Viking Grove (1991) (15268) 6.00 Fugitive Family (1987) (62527) 10.00 All Hands on Deck (1987) (42885) 12.00 Perfume Journey (1994) (42885) 2.00 The Return of the King (1994) (54121) 3.00 Where Are You? (52165) 4.00 Csi: Crime Scene Investigation (52165) 5.00 Where Are You? (52165) 6.00 The Little Rascals (1994) (54121) 7.00 The Little Rascals (1994) (54121) 8.00 When the Bough Breaks (1994) (54141) 9.00 The Little Rascals (1994) (54141) 10.00 Monkey Wrenches (1988) (70384) 10.30 Flipper (1967) (35285)

SKY MOVIES 1

- 5.00pm Master of the Worlds (1987) (51569) 6.00 Big Drama and Broken Oz (51569) 14.00 Big Drama and Broken Oz (51569)

BBC2

- 6.00am OPEN UNIVERSITY: The Politics of Equal Opportunity (3117140) 6.30 Women in Science (8022695) 7.15 See Her Breakfast News (T) (97121)
- 9.20pm STYLING (480763)
- 10.30 CAN'T COOK, WON'T COOK With Ainsley Harriott (75701)
- 11.00 NEWS (T), regional news and weather (3339366) 11.05 The Really Useful Show Consumer advice (5334879) 11.45 Smiles People's (373530)
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- 2.20 WEATHER (4797657)

ENTERPRISE CULTURE

- REVISITED In the second of three programmes revisiting entrepreneurs of the 1980s, we meet Howard Hodgson, who revolutionised the funeral industry (T) (460324)
- 6.00pm MODERN TIMES: The Power and the Glory BBC2, 9.00pm
- When the BRC trained its cameras on Howard Hodgson in 1989, he was the epitome of the Thatcherite entrepreneur, a workaholic millionaire who had got rich sweeping away old industrial practices. His business was undertaking, though with his long hair and flashy clothes he looked more like an ageing footballer than a funeral director. Heroes of the enterprise culture tended to come a cropper in the post-Thatcher Nineties and Hodgson was no exception. After his company merged he left the funeral business and at 40 was suddenly spending more time with his family. But his marriage broke up, two business ventures failed and he was forced to seek a new outlet for his maverick talent. The film finds Hodgson as bullish as ever and a hard act to follow, as his son is discovering.

Enterprise Culture Revisited: Building an Empire BBC2, 9.45pm

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Room With Two Views Pre-marital Sex BBC2, 11.15pm

- JEANETTE BARRATT is 26 and single and intends to follow her Christian belief that sex should be confined to marriage. Lynn Phillips, now 20, lost her virginity at 15, reckons that sex is there to be enjoyed and has no thoughts of marriage. Their face-to-face debate, conducted over glasses of orange juice, tends to go along familiar lines. But unlike some contributors to this series, the women do credit to themselves, and help the viewer, by not raising their voices or talking over each other. With 70 per cent of the population (according to one poll) against her, Barratt may be fighting the minority corner. But she does so with eloquence and moral fervour. Phillips, the libertarian and the hedonist, counters by suggesting to Barratt that she is simply out of date. Good humour is maintained throughout. Peter Waymark

- REVISITED DES O'CONNOR TONIGHT The entertainer returns with a new series of music and chat. Tonight's guests include Phil Collins, Shirley Bassey, the Spice Girls, Dave Allen and Bill Bailey (T) (239587)
- 9.00pm FILM: Presumed Innocent (1990) With Harrison Ford and Brian Dennehy. A tense courtroom drama centring on the murder and rape of a District Attorney's legal colleague and former lover. Initially he is assigned to the investigation, until the evidence begins to point to him being the murderer. Directed by Alan J. Pakula. Continued after the news (T) (2121)
- 10.00pm POLITICAL BROADCAST: Conservative (81819)
- 10.05 NEWS (T) and weather (598633)
- 10.45 FILM: Presumed Innocent Concludes (T) (239587)
- 12.10pm REAL STORIES OF THE HIGHWAY PATROL (2467638)
- 12.40pm GOD'S GIFT (4835638)
- 1.40 CYBERCAFE (3945451)
- 2.10 DEAR NICK (5208268)
- 3.50 CUSTOMS CLASSIFIED (5114657)
- 3.50 NATIONALWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE EXTRA (3205270)
- 4.30 THE TIME... THE PLACE (18763)
- 5.00 THE VILLAGE SHOW (50638)
- 5.30 NEWS (89847)

- 12.00pm THE MIDNIGHT HOUR (50164)
- 12.30pm THE LEARNING ZONE: Women and Organisations 1.00 Empowerment 1.30 Making Medical Decisions 2.00 Believing 4.00 English Heritage 4.30 Apprenticeships 5.00 Health and Safety at Work 5.30 The Adviser

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**FISHING 38**

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SPORT

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 11 1996

Cambridge centre lifts aura of gloom from University match

Singer hits the right note

Oxford University 7
Cambridge University 23

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

MATTHEW SINGER's rugby career will, with any luck, have many years to run, but few occasions will match that at Twickenham yesterday. The young Bristolian's two tries for Cambridge alleviated the gloom that hung over the 115th University match, not all of which was attributable to the raw, gloomy weather.

Try as they did make the occasion a fitting tribute to Ian Tucker, the young Oxford centre who died from injuries sustained in a match against Saracens in October, neither side could rise above the mundane and maybe, in these professional days, it is wrong that we should expect them to. Even so, it is important for the future of the fixture, which attracted a record 72,000 crowd, that the universities should continue to try.

The occasion needs a handful, no more, of players with the ability and the vision to seize the moment, and here they were noticeable by their absence. Even Niall Hogan, lately the Ireland captain and a scrum half who played in the 1995 World Cup, could not ignite an Oxford side that, because of Tucker's death, had effectively only three weeks in which to prepare.

In such circumstances — Cambridge, too, were affected, since their XV included two players from Tucker's school in Sydney — judgment should be suspended and Singer's initiative applauded. His try in the first half gave Cambridge the lead for the first time; his second, deep into injury time, ensured that there would be no way back for the Dark Blues, who have now lost the Bowning Bowl three times in succession and trail 54-48 in the series.

Since he also dropped a left-footed goal that gave Cambridge a 13-7 interval lead, Singer's joy was unconfined. Though registered with Saracens, he is taking a level-headed view of the future. "I would like to get a full-time teaching job but I hope there



Surridge, the Cambridge full back, is halted by some determined Oxford defending at Twickenham yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

will be some good advice from Saracens," Singer, 24, said. Since he played full back to win his first Blue last year, and did not enjoy a particularly notable game, yesterday offered the fullest of compensation.

Not that his conversion to centre is likely to last long,

despite the early-season conversation that he had at Saracens with Phillippe Sella, one of the world's most famous occupants of that position, which provided him with inspiration. "He talked about playing decent rugby, about keeping your game going and bidding your time, however hard the opposition came at you," Singer said. He still regards full back as his better position, though whether he will be seen in Saracens colours in the new year remains to be seen, since Cambridge have some attractive fixtures with the universities of Rome and Paris, and against Ospreys.

Cambridge were at sixes and sevens in the first five minutes. Everything that could have gone wrong did. Surridge made a tentative attempt at a penalty goal, and though Averis sliced the clearance, Cambridge lost the lineout and were penalised. Worse was to follow. Walsh charged down a kick by Ashforth, seized the rebound and made 60 metres for an interception try.

Cambridge dug their way out of the hole, even though

their expected lineout domination never materialised. Their pack scrummaged powerfully and their cohesion in the loose ensured that Hogan was denied the loose ball upon which he hoped Oxford could build a game. Eamshaw charged powerfully about the field, though neither side could establish the continuity of play that might have distinguished the occasion.

Critically, the penalty count mounted against Oxford; a final count of 23-11 against them represented a host of missed opportunities that might have meant more had Cambridge chosen to kick at goal rather than take penalty scrums. Brumley, the Cambridge captain, argued that the scrums had the effect of sapping Oxford's strength but one suspects the team management would have preferred points on the board.

Surridge kicked his second goal, however, and then watched in admiration as Ashforth's long pass found Singer cutting diagonally back against the grain of the defence and through to the posts. When Ashforth drifted

to the right of a ruck and took defenders with him, Singer had the space on the blind side to land the dropped goal that emboldened the Cambridge.

Yet both sides could only watch and hope when De Bruyn, the Oxford captain and, like Tucker, a centre, caught his head on a stray boot and went down motionless. The South African had taken a heavy knock in the first half and now he was carried off. Though he suffered a momentary concussion he was able to watch the closing stages, though it would have given him little cause for joy.

Surridge kicked another goal, though, and then watched in admiration as Ashforth's long pass found Singer cutting diagonally back against the grain of the defence and through to the posts. It has been that kind of term for them.

SCORERS: Oxford University: Try: Walsh. Conversion: Aviles. Cambridge University: Try: Singer (2). Conversion: Walsh. Penalties: Singer (2). Scrum-half: Surridge. Dropped goal: Singer.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY: R. Maher (St Ignatius College, Sydney and Trinity), C. Smart (Shepherds and Trinity), G. de Bruyn (captain), C. Connelly (St Ignatius College, Sydney and Trinity), J. Atherton (Kings), P. Walsh (St Ignatius College, Brisbane and Kable), R. Brown (St Michael's College, Dublin and University of Dublin), M. Eamshaw (St Cross), N. Hogan (Teresian College, Dublin and Marist), J. Bothwell (Marlborough and Marlborough), H. Hockley (King Edward VI Mount Pleasant HS, Newfoundland and Wolfson), M. O'Leary (Kings), Canterbury and Cheltenham), T. E. Jameson (St Edmund's College, Dublin and University of Dublin), T. Murphy (St Ignatius College, Dublin and St Edmund's), N. Holgate (Archbishop Prendergast Catholic College, Dublin), T. Murphy (St Ignatius College, Sydney and St Edmund's), R. Brumley (De La Salle College and Petrehouse), B. Ryan (Wimborne), C. McCarthy (St Mary's College, Dublin and University of Dublin), T. Murphy (St Ignatius College, Brisbane and St Edmund's), R. Eamshaw (Yarm and St Edmund's). Referee: J. Pearson (Durham).

NEWBURY'S PROBLEM: Reed recalled, page 40
Newbury's problem, page 40

SIMON BARNES 42

Why Steve Redgrave
is the sports
personality of the year



14

Knight shifts England's dark clouds

FROM SIMON WILDE IN BULAWAYO

BULAWAYO (first day of four): Matabeloland won toss; England XI have scored 199 for three wickets

NICK KNIGHT scored his fourth century in ten matches for England sides of various hue as the touring team produced its most encouraging batting performance of the tour at the Athletic Club here yesterday. Knight struck an unbeaten 100 as England reached 199 for three on a truncated first day of their match with Matabeloland.

After making barely a run in Harare, he has run into form here and was at his most positive and hardworking yesterday, unperturbed by two let-offs in the 60s and 70s or the early departure of his opening partner, Michael Atherton, who failed to reach double figures for the fourth time in five innings.

He put on 86 with Stewart and 85 with Hussain, both of whom reached the 30s and promised more against an attack containing several likely members of the Zimbabwe Test side in conditions that gave them considerable help. Such a productive day's work had looked unlikely after a torrential thunderstorm halted play just 90 minutes into the game, with England 60 for one. But with the ground drying rapidly, a resumption was possible by 2.45pm and an extra hour added to the day.

In fact, only half of that extra hour had been played when the umpires, to the bewilderment of Knight and Thorpe, took off the bails and marched from the field at the end of the over in which Knight — finally — reached his hundred. Having turned down an offer of the light in an effort to do so before the close, Knight was shown on the scoreboard as having reached 96 when he Whitfield to the square-leg boundary. Having acknowledged the applause of the crowd, he found his score promptly reduced from 100 to 99, the official scorers having revised his total, and he had to wait two more overs to push the single he still needed.

Having made his first hundred for England — against Pakistan in August — batting at No 6. But his subsequent

either side in the Test series, hit Atherton in the midriff with the second ball he bowled to him and in his third over dispatched him with the fast bowler's classic one-two: first the rapid bouncer, then the full-length ball which uprooted middle stump.

Whitfield struck a far more convincing pose as England's latest No 3 than he had in Harare, but threw away an opportunity for a long innings by driving loosely at Streak. Hussain, heartened by his reply, proceeded to thump the ball around and dent the confidence of Andrew Whitfield, Zimbabwe's first-choice off spinner, before Olonga returned to find his outside edge.

Photograph, page 40
Master Butcher, page 40

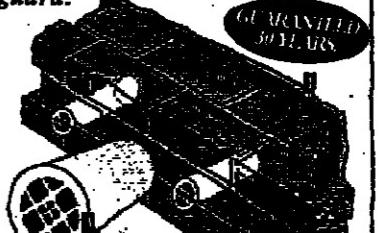
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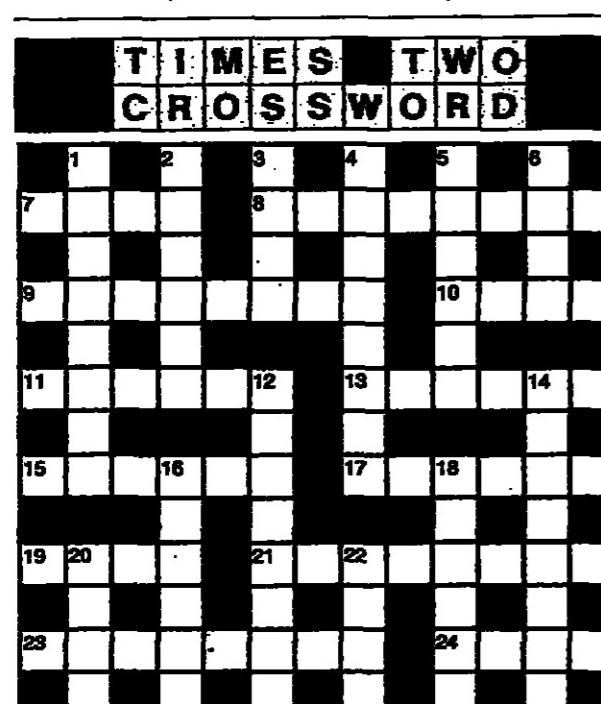
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11 Sea mammal with tusks, whiskers (6)
12 The — Cometh (E. O'Neill) (6)
15 Brother's son (6)
17 Talk too fast (6)
19 Asperion (4)
21 Circling (leg sun) (8)
23 Versed in literature (4-4)
24 Way out (4)

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22 Slim 23 Pewter 24 Scrump
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20 Weir

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John Hopkins on a Twickenham crowd
disturbed by some emotive images

Tuesday in December was always going to be the hardest day for those who played for and supported Oxford University.

Tucker would have wanted victory as much as they did, and defeat by Cambridge University was difficult to bear. These days, when there were only six undergraduates playing and ten players came from outside Britain and Ireland, it seems as though the importance of the Varsity match increases the further the distance travelled to compete in it.

Four men on the pitch yesterday had attended the St Ignatius School in Sydney, Tucker's school. Two were at Oxford, two, who were grieving just as much at Cambridge. "Believe me," De Bruyn, who was born in Bloemfontein, said, "every single player on both sides dreams of playing in the Varsity match. I shall keep these memories until I am

upset."

Nor will he forget the events that followed Tucker's death. He was man enough to talk

bravely about it, not afraid to cry. What are a few tears when shed in tribute to a friend?

"When we lost him [Tucker]," de Bruyn said, "three things happened. Emotionally, for myself, life stopped for three days." He paused as his eyes reddened and tears began to course down his cheeks. He bent his head forward momentarily. "It was a matter for all of us being there for each other. I could

not spend a minute on my own. I had virtually no sleep. There was no end to the tunnel.

"We had lost our best player. I was out injured and he was gone. Soon we lost Trevor Walsh, as well. Then, thirdly, came the emotion of playing poor rugby and getting into the habit of playing poorly. We did not break out of that until three weeks ago."

Just because the game was played at the high altar of rugby did not make it a game fit for the high table. If the game last year was one that woke up everyone who crammed into Twickenham, this was one that sent them to sleep again. Adjectives such as worthy and earnest come to mind. How the game cried out for one player to take hold of it.

And so the memories of the 115th Varsity match are of the man who was not there rather than the 30 who were.

Matthew Singer scored two tries for him, will live forever. But on this grey December day the mind was on another centre, a man who should have been at Twickenham, had a one-in-a-million accident not ended his life.



De Bruyn: upset

TV & RADIO WEATHER CROSSWORD